

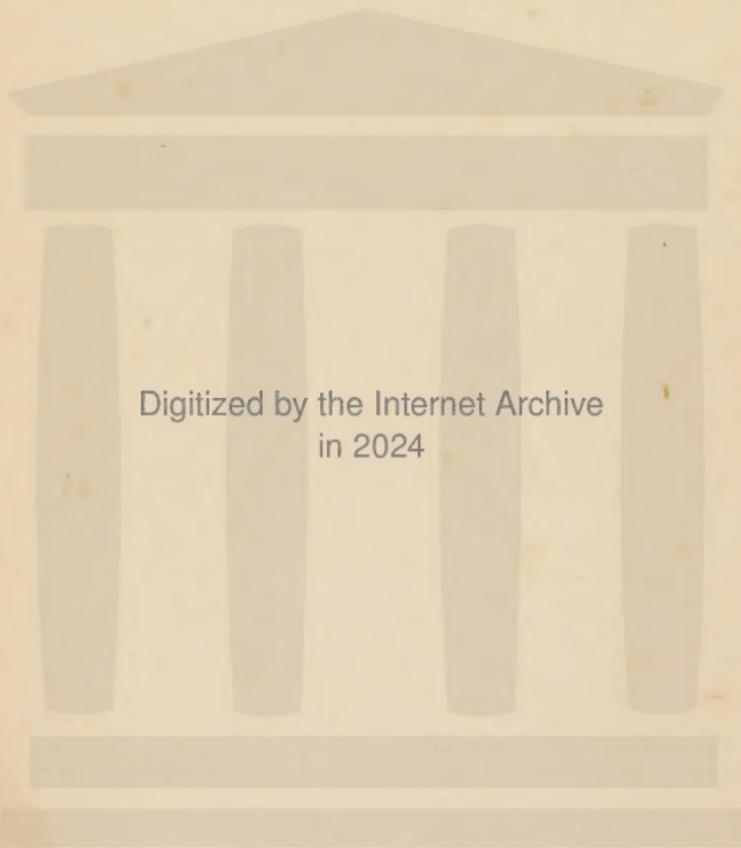




Rev. Principal Macleod.

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COLLECTED VERSE OF A. B. PATERSON

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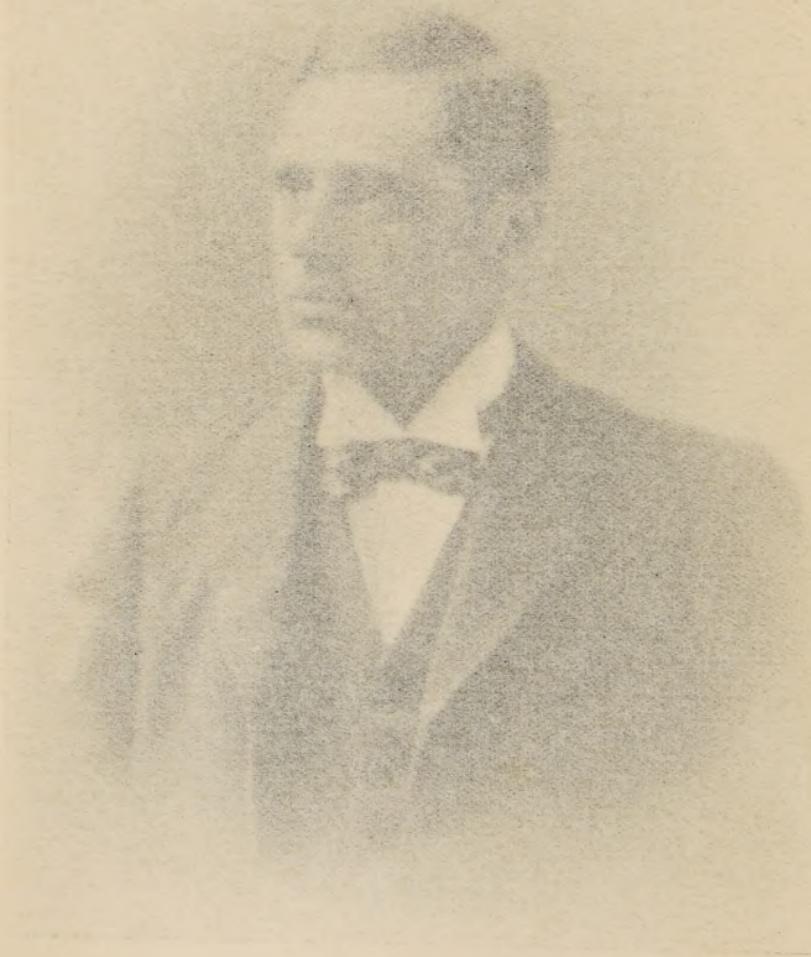


A. B. Paterson

THE COLLECTED VERSE  
OF  
A. B. PATERSON

CONTAINING "THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER,"  
"RIO GRANDE," AND "SALTBUSH BILL, J.P."

AUSTRALIA:  
ANGUS & ROBERTSON LTD.,  
99 CASTLEREAGH STREET, SYDNEY  
1927



A. H. Robinson

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## CONTENTS

A BALLAD OF DUCKS	..	..	..	..	327
A BUNCH OF ROSES	..	..	..	..	77
A BUSH CHRISTENING	..	..	..	..	111
A BUSHMAN'S SONG	..	..	..	..	86
A DISQUALIFIED JOCKEY'S STORY	..	..	..	..	187
A DREAM OF THE MELBOURNE CUP	..	..	..	..	305
A MOUNTAIN STATION	..	..	..	..	41
A SINGER OF THE BUSH	..	..	..	..	289
A VOICE FROM THE TOWN	..	..	..	..	74
A WALGETT EPISODE	..	..	..	..	165
AMBITION AND ART	..	..	..	..	102
AN ANSWER TO VARIOUS BARDS	..	..	..	..	272
AN EVENING IN DANDALOO	..	..	..	..	324
AN IDYLL OF DANDALOO	..	..	..	..	28
ANTHONY CONSIDINE	..	..	..	..	182
ANY OTHER TIME	..	..	..	..	217
AS LONG AS YOUR EYES ARE BLUE	..	..	..	..	278
AT THE MELTING OF THE SNOW	..	..	..	..	304
BALLAD OF THE <i>CALLIOPE</i>	..	..	..	..	203
BEEN THERE BEFORE	..	..	..	..	42
BLACK SWANS	..	..	..	..	78
BOTTLE-O!	..	..	..	..	279
BRUMBY'S RUN	..	..	..	..	257
BY THE GREY GULF-WATER	..	..	..	..	138
CITY OF DREADFUL THIRST	..	..	..	..	154

## CONTENTS

CLANCY OF THE OVERFLOW	..	..	..	15
COME-BY-CHANCE	..	..	..	118
CONROY'S GAP	..	..	..	18
DAYLIGHT IS DYING	..	..	..	126
DO THEY KNOW	..	..	..	208
DRIVER SMITH	..	..	..	236
FATHER RILEY'S HORSE	..	..	..	167
FRYING PAN'S THEOLOGY	..	..	..	61
GILHOOLEY'S ESTATE	..	..	..	284
HARD LUCK	..	..	..	198
HAY AND HELL AND BOOLIGAL	..	..	..	162
"HE GIVETH HIS BELOVED SLEEP"	..	..	..	235
HOW GILBERT DIED	..	..	..	89
HOW M'GINNIS WENT MISSING	..	..	..	73
HOW THE FAVOURITE BEAT US	..	..	..	113
IN DEFENCE OF THE BUSH	..	..	..	105
<i>IN RE A GENTLEMAN, ONE</i>	..	..	..	302
IN THE DROVING DAYS	..	..	..	64
IN THE STABLE	..	..	..	230
IT'S GRAND	..	..	..	222
JIM CAREW	..	..	..	122
JOCK	..	..	..	250
JOHNNY BOER	..	..	..	245
JOHNSON'S ANTIDOTE	..	..	..	97
LAST WEEK	..	..	..	108
LAY OF THE MOTOR CAR	..	..	..	311
LOST	..	..	..	67
MULGA BILL'S BICYCLE	..	..	..	147
MULLIGAN'S MARE	..	..	..	292
OLD AUSTRALIAN WAYS	..	..	..	201
OLD PARDON, THE SON OF REPRIEVE	..	..	..	8
ON KILEY'S RUN	..	..	..	57
ON THE TREK	..	..	..	241

## CONTENTS

vii

ONLY A JOCKEY ..	..	..	..	..	..	71
OUR NEW HORSE ..	..	..	..	..	..	23
OUT OF SIGHT ..	..	..	..	..	..	223
OVER THE RANGE ..	..	..	..	..	..	70
PASSING OF GUNDAGAI ..	..	..	..	..	..	209
PIONEERS ..	..	..	..	..	..	298
RIDERS IN THE STAND ..	..	..	..	..	..	270
RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE ARMY ..	..	..	..	..	..	247
RIO GRANDE ..	..	..	..	..	..	131
SALTBUSH BILL ..	..	..	..	..	..	37
SALTBUSH BILL, J.P. ..	..	..	..	..	..	266
SALTBUSH BILL ON THE PATRIARCHS ..	..	..	..	..	..	259
SALTBUSH BILL'S GAMECOCK ..	..	..	..	..	..	158
SALTBUSH BILL'S SECOND FIGHT ..	..	..	..	..	..	192
SANTA CLAUS ..	..	..	..	..	..	251
SANTA CLAUS IN THE BUSH ..	..	..	..	..	..	299
SHEARING AT CASTLEREAGH ..	..	..	..	..	..	94
"SHOUTING" FOR A CAMEL ..	..	..	..	..	..	290
SONG OF THE ARTESIAN WATER ..	..	..	..	..	..	184
SONG OF THE FEDERATION ..	..	..	..	..	..	199
SONG OF THE FUTURE ..	..	..	..	..	..	176
SONG OF THE PEN ..	..	..	..	..	..	336
SONG OF THE WHEAT ..	..	..	..	..	..	255
STORY OF MONGREL GREY ..	..	..	..	..	..	280
SUNRISE ON THE COAST ..	..	..	..	..	..	335
TAR AND FEATHERS ..	..	..	..	..	..	220
THAT V.C. ..	..	..	..	..	..	248
THE ALL RIGHT UN ..	..	..	..	..	..	80
THE AMATEUR RIDER ..	..	..	..	..	..	53
THE BOSS OF THE <i>ADMIRAL LYNCH</i> ..	..	..	..	..	..	83
THE CORNER MAN ..	..	..	..	..	..	312
THE FIRST SURVEYOR ..	..	..	..	..	..	144

THE FLYING GANG .. .. .. .. ..	92
THE GEEBUNG POLO CLUB .. .. .. .. ..	31
THE GREAT CALAMITY .. .. .. .. ..	115
THE GUNDAROO BULLOCK .. .. .. .. ..	308
THE LAST PARADE .. .. .. .. ..	243
THE LAST TRUMP .. .. .. .. ..	219
THE MAN FROM IRONBARK .. .. .. .. ..	45
THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER .. .. .. .. ..	3
THE MAN WHO WAS AWAY .. .. .. .. ..	43
THE MAORI'S WOOL .. .. .. .. ..	332
THE MOUNTAIN SQUATTER .. .. .. .. ..	295
THE MYLORA ELOPEMENT .. .. .. .. ..	315
THE OLD TIMER'S STEEPLECHASE .. .. .. .. ..	225
THE OPEN STEEPLECHASE .. .. .. .. ..	48
THE PANNIKIN POET .. .. .. .. ..	320
THE PEARL DIVER .. .. .. .. ..	150
THE PROTEST .. .. .. .. ..	322
THE REVEREND MULLINEUX .. .. .. .. ..	263
THE ROAD TO GUNDAGAI .. .. .. .. ..	190
THE ROAD TO HOGAN'S GAP .. .. .. .. ..	285
THE ROAD TO OLD MAN'S TOWN .. .. .. .. ..	225
THE SCOTTISH ENGINEER .. .. .. .. ..	173
THE SWAGMAN'S REST .. .. .. .. ..	124
THE TRAVELLING POST OFFICE .. .. .. .. ..	34
THE TWO DEVINES .. .. .. .. ..	62
THE WARGEILAH HANDICAP .. .. .. .. ..	212
THE WIND'S MESSAGE .. .. .. .. ..	95
THERE'S ANOTHER BLESSED HORSE FELL DOWN .. .. .. .. ..	240
THOSE NAMES .. .. .. .. ..	109
TOMMY CORRIGAN .. .. .. .. ..	330
T.Y.S.O.N. .. .. .. .. ..	276
UNDER THE SHADOW OF KILEY'S HILL .. .. .. .. ..	120
WALTZING MATILDA .. .. .. .. ..	271

## CONTENTS

ix

WHEN DACEY RODE THE MULE	..	..	..	313
WISDOM OF HAFIZ	..	..	..	264
WITH FRENCH TO KIMBERLEY	..	..	..	134
WITH THE CATTLE	..	..	..	140



I

***THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER  
AND OTHER VERSES***

## *PRELUDE*

*I have gathered these stories afar  
In the wind and the rain,  
In the land where the cattle-camps are,  
On the edge of the plain.  
On the overland routes of the west,  
When the watches were long,  
I have fashioned in earnest and jest  
These fragments of song.*

*They are just the rude stories one hears  
In sadness and mirth,  
The records of wandering years—  
And scant is their worth.  
Though their merits indeed are but slight,  
I shall not repine  
If they give you one moment's delight,  
Old comrades of mine.*

## THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER

There was movement at the station, for the word  
had passed around

That the colt from old Regret had got away,  
And had joined the wild bush horses—he was worth  
a thousand pound,

So all the cracks had gathered to the fray.  
All the tried and noted riders from the stations near  
and far

Had mustered at the homestead overnight,  
For the bushmen love hard riding where the wild  
bush horses are,

And the stock-horse snuffs the battle with delight.

There was Harrison, who made his pile when Pardon  
won the cup,

The old man with his hair as white as snow;  
But few could ride beside him when his blood was  
fairly up—

He would go wherever horse and man could go.  
And Clancy of the Overflow came down to lend a  
hand,

No better horseman ever held the reins;  
For never horse could throw him while the saddle-  
girths would stand—  
He learnt to ride while droving on the plains.

And one was there, a stripling on a small and weedy beast;

He was something like a racehorse undersized,  
With a touch of Timor pony—three parts thoroughbred at least—

And such as are by mountain horsemen prized.  
He was hard and tough and wiry—just the sort that  
won't say die—

There was courage in his quick impatient tread;  
And he bore the badge of gameness in his bright  
and fiery eye,

And the proud and lofty carriage of his head.

But still so slight and weedy, one would doubt his  
power to stay,

And the old man said, "That horse will never do  
For a long and tiring gallop—lad, you'd better stop  
away,

Those hills are far too rough for such as you."  
So he waited, sad and wistful—only Clancy stood  
his friend—

"I think we ought to let him come," he said;  
"I warrant he'll be with us when he's wanted at  
the end,  
For both his horse and he are mountain bred.

"He hails from Snowy River, up by Kosciusko's  
side,

Where the hills are twice as steep and twice as  
rough;

Where a horse's hoofs strike firelight from the  
flint stones every stride,

The man that holds his own is good enough.

And the Snowy River riders on the mountains  
make their home,  
Where the river runs those giant hills between;  
I have seen full many horsemen since I first com-  
menced to roam,  
But nowhere yet such horsemen have I seen."

So he went; they found the horses by the big  
mimosa clump,  
They raced away towards the mountain's brow,  
And the old man gave his orders, "Boys, go at  
them from the jump,  
No use to try for fancy riding now.  
And, Clancy, you must wheel them, try and wheel  
them to the right.  
Ride boldly, lad, and never fear the spills,  
For never yet was rider that could keep the mob  
in sight,  
If once they gain the shelter of those hills."

So Clancy rode to wheel them—he was racing on  
the wing  
Where the best and boldest riders take their place,  
And he raced his stock-horse past them, and he  
made the ranges ring  
With the stockwhip, as he met them face to face.  
Then they halted for a moment, while he swung  
the dreaded lash,  
But they saw their well-loved mountain full in  
view,  
And they charged beneath the stockwhip with a  
sharp and sudden dash,  
And off into the mountain scrub they flew.

Then fast the horsemen followed, where the gorges  
deep and black

Resounded to the thunder of their tread,  
And the stockwhips woke the echoes, and they  
fiercely answered back

From cliffs and crags that beetled overhead.  
And upward, ever upward, the wild horses held  
their way,

Where mountain ash and kurrajong grew wide;  
And the old man muttered fiercely, "We may bid  
the mob good day,

**No** man can hold them down the other side."

When they reached the mountain's summit, even  
Clancy took a pull—

It well might make the boldest hold their breath;  
The wild hop scrub grew thickly, and the hidden  
ground was full

Of wombat holes, and any slip was death.  
But the man from Snowy River let the pony have  
his head,

And he swung his stockwhip round and gave a  
cheer,

And he raced him down the mountain like a torrent  
down its bed,

While the others stood and watched in very fear.

He sent the flint-stones flying, but the pony kept his  
feet,

He cleared the fallen timber in his stride,  
And the man from Snowy River never shifted in his  
seat—

It was grand to see that mountain horseman ride.

Through the stringy barks and saplings, on the  
rough and broken ground,  
Down the hillside at a racing pace he went;  
And he never drew the bridle till he landed safe  
and sound  
At the bottom of that terrible descent.

He was right among the horses as they climbed  
the farther hill,

And the watchers on the mountain, standing mute,  
Saw him ply the stockwhip fiercely; he was right  
among them still,

As he raced across the clearing in pursuit.

Then they lost him for a moment, where two moun-  
tain gullies met

In the ranges—but a final glimpse reveals  
On a dim and distant hillside the wild horses racing  
yet,

With the man from Snowy River at their heels.

And he ran them single-handed till their sides were  
white with foam;

He followed like a bloodhound on their track,  
Till they halted, cowed and beaten; then he turned  
their heads for home,

And alone and unassisted brought them back.

But his hardy mountain pony he could scarcely raise  
a trot,

He was blood from hip to shoulder from the  
spur;

But his pluck was still undaunted, and his courage  
fiery hot,

For never yet was mountain horse a cur.

And down by Kosciusko, where the pine-clad ridges  
 raise  
 Their torn and rugged battlements on high,  
 Where the air is clear as crystal, and the white  
 stars fairly blaze  
 At midnight in the cold and frosty sky,  
 And where around the Overflow the reed-beds sweep  
 and sway  
 To the breezes, and the rolling plains are wide,  
 The Man from Snowy River is a household word  
 to-day,  
 And the stockmen tell the story of his ride.

## OLD PARDON THE SON OF REPRIEVE

You never heard tell of the story?  
 Well, now, I can hardly believe!  
 Never heard of the honour and glory  
 Of Pardon, the son of Reprieve?  
 But maybe you're only a Johnnie  
 And don't know a horse from a hoe?  
 Well, well, don't get angry, my sonny,  
 But, really, a young un should know.

They bred him out back on the "Never,"  
 His mother was Mameluke breed.  
 To the front—and then stay there—was ever  
 The root of the Mameluke creed.  
 He seemed to inherit their wiry  
 Strong frames—and their pluck to receive—  
 As hard as a flint and as fiery  
 Was Pardon, the son of Reprieve.

We ran him at many a meeting  
At crossing and gully and town,  
And nothing could give him a beating—  
At least when our money was down.  
For weight wouldn't stop him, nor distance,  
Nor odds, though the others were fast;  
He'd race with a dogged persistence,  
And wear them all down at the last.

At the Turon the Yattendon filly  
Led by lengths at the mile-and-a-half,  
And we all began to look silly,  
While her crowd were starting to laugh;  
But the old horse came faster and faster,  
His pluck told its tale, and his strength,  
He gained on her, caught her, and passed her,  
And won it, hands-down, by a length.

And then we swooped down on Menindie  
To run for the President's Cup;  
Oh! that's a sweet township—a shindy  
To them is board, lodging, and sup.  
Eye-openers they are, and their system  
Is never to suffer defeat;  
It's "win, tie, or wrangle"—to best 'em  
You must lose 'em, or else it's "dead heat."

We strolled down the township and found 'em  
At drinking and gaming and play;  
If sorrows they had, why they drowned 'em,  
And betting was soon under way.

Their horses were good uns and fit uns,  
 There was plenty of cash in the town;  
 They backed their own horses like Britons,  
 And, Lord! how *we* rattled it down!

With gladness *we* thought of the morrow,  
 We counted our wagers with glee,  
 A simile homely to borrow—  
 “There was plenty of milk in our tea.”  
 You see *we* were green; and *we* never  
 Had even a thought of foul play,  
 Though *we* well might have known that the clever  
 Division would “put *us* away.”

Experience *docet*, they tell *us*,  
 At least so I’ve frequently heard;  
 But, “dosing” or “stuffing,” those fellows  
 Were up to each move on the board:  
 They got to his stall—it is sinful  
 To think what such villains will do—  
 And they gave him a regular skinful  
 Of barley—green barley—to chew.

He munched it all night, and *we* found him  
 Next morning as full as a hog—  
 The girths wouldn’t nearly meet round him;  
 He looked like an overfed frog.  
 We saw *we* were done like a dinner—  
 The odds were a thousand to one  
 Against Pardon turning up winner,  
 ’Twas cruel to ask him to run.

## OLD PARDON THE SON OF REPRIEVE 11

We got to the course with our troubles,  
A crestfallen couple were we;  
And we heard the "books" calling the doubles—  
A roar like the surf of the sea;  
And over the tumult and louder  
Rang "Any price Pardon, I lay!"  
Says Jimmy, "The Children of Judah  
Are out on the warpath to-day."

Three miles in three heats:—Ah, my sonny,  
The horses in those days were stout,  
They had to run well to win money;  
I don't see such horses about.  
Your six-furlong vermin that scamper  
Half-a-mile with their feather-weight up,  
They wouldn't earn much of their damper  
In a race like the President's Cup.

The first heat was soon set a-going;  
The Dancer went off to the front;  
The Don on his quarters was showing,  
With Pardon right out of the hunt.  
He rolled and he weltered and wallowed—  
You'd kick your hat faster, I'll bet;  
They finished all bunched, and he followed  
All lathered and dripping with sweat.

But troubles came thicker upon us,  
For while we were rubbing him dry  
The stewards came over to warn us:  
"We hear you are running a bye!"

If Pardon don't spiel like tarnation  
And win the next heat—if he can—  
He'll earn a disqualification;  
Just think over *that* now, my man!"

Our money all gone and our credit,  
Our horse couldn't gallop a yard;  
And then people thought that *we* did it!  
It really was terribly hard.  
We were objects of mirth and derision  
To folk in the lawn and the stand,  
And the yells of the clever division  
Of "Any price Pardon!" were grand.

We still had a chance for the money,  
Two heats still remained to be run;  
If both fell to us—why, my sonny,  
The clever division were done.  
And Pardon was better, we reckoned,  
His sickness was passing away,  
So he went to the post for the second  
And principal heat of the day.

They're off and away with a rattle,  
Like dogs from the leashes let slip,  
And right at the back of the battle  
He followed them under the whip.  
They gained ten good lengths on him quickly  
He dropped right away from the pack;  
I tell you it made me feel sickly  
To see the blue jacket fall back.

Our very last hope had departed—  
We thought the old fellow was done,  
When all of a sudden he started  
To go like a shot from a gun.  
His chances seemed slight to embolden  
Our hearts; but, with teeth firmly set,  
We thought, "Now or never! The old un  
May reckon with some of 'em yet."

Then loud rose the war-cry for Pardon;  
He swept like the wind down the dip,  
And over the rise by the garden  
The jockey was done with the whip.  
The field were at sixes and sevens—  
The pace at the first had been fast—  
And hope seemed to drop from the heavens,  
For Pardon was coming at last.

And how he did come! It was splendid;  
He gained on them yards every bound,  
Stretching out like a greyhound extended,  
His girth laid right down on the ground.  
A shimmer of silk in the cedars  
As into the running they wheeled,  
And out flashed the whips on the leaders,  
For Pardon had collared the field.

Then right through the ruck he came sailing—  
I knew that the battle was won—  
The son of Haphazard was failing,  
The Yattendon filly was done;

He cut down The Don and The Dancer,  
 He raced clean away from the mare—  
 He's in front! Catch him now if you can, sir!  
 And up went my hat in the air!

Then loud from the lawn and the garden  
 Rose offers of "Ten to one *on!*"  
 "Who'll bet on the field? I back Pardon!"  
 No use; all the money was gone.  
 He came for the third heat light-hearted,  
 A-jumping and dancing about;  
 The others were done ere they started  
 Crestfallen, and tired, and worn out.

He won it, and ran it much faster  
 Than even the first, I believe;  
 Oh, he was the daddy, the master,  
 Was Pardon, the son of Reprieve.  
 He showed 'em the method to travel—  
 The boy sat as still as a stone—  
 They never could see him for gravel;  
 He came in hard-held, and alone.

But he's old—and his eyes are grown hollow  
 Like me, with my thatch of the snow;  
 When he dies, then I hope I may follow,  
 And go where the racehorses go.  
 I don't want no harping nor singing—  
 Such things with my style don't agree;  
 Where the hoofs of the horses are ringing  
 There's music sufficient for me.

And surely the thoroughbred horses  
Will rise up again and begin  
Fresh races on far-away courses,  
And p'raps they might let me slip in.  
It would look rather well the race-card on  
'Mongst Cherubs and Seraphs and things,  
"Angel Harrison's black gelding Pardon,  
Blue halo, white body and wings."

And if they have racing hereafter,  
(And who is to say they will not?)  
When the cheers and the shouting and laughter  
Proclaim that the battle grows hot;  
As they come down the racecourse a-steering,  
He'll rush to the front, I believe;  
And you'll hear the great multitude cheering  
For Pardon, the son of Reprieve.

### CLANCY OF THE OVERFLOW

I had written him a letter which I had, for want of  
better  
Knowledge, sent to where I met him down the  
Lachlan, years ago;  
He was shearing when I knew him, so I sent the  
letter to him,  
Just on spec, addressed as follows, "Clancy, of  
The Overflow."

And an answer came directed in a writing unexpected  
(And I think the same was written with a thumb-nail dipped in tar);  
'Twas his shearing mate who wrote it, and *verbatim*  
I will quote it:  
"Clancy's gone to Queensland droving, and we  
don't know where he are."

In my wild erratic fancy visions come to me of  
Clancy  
Gone a-droving "down the Cooper" where the  
Western drovers go;  
As the stock are slowly stringing, Clancy rides  
behind them singing,  
For the drover's life has pleasures that the towns-folk never know.

And the bush has friends to meet him, and their  
kindly voices greet him  
In the murmur of the breezes and the river on  
its bars,  
And he sees the vision splendid of the sunlit plains  
extended,  
And at night the wondrous glory of the everlasting stars.

I am sitting in my dingy little office, where a stingy  
Ray of sunlight struggles feebly down between  
the houses tall,

And the foetid air and gritty of the dusty, dirty city,  
Through the open window floating, spreads its  
foulness over all.

And in place of lowing cattle, I can hear the fiendish  
rattle  
Of the tramways and the buses making hurry  
down the street;  
And the language uninviting of the gutter children  
fighting  
Comes fitfully and faintly through the ceaseless  
tramp of feet.

And the hurrying people daunt me, and their pallid  
faces haunt me  
As they shoulder one another in their rush and  
nervous haste,  
With their eager eyes and greedy, and their stunted  
forms and weedy,  
For townsfolk have no time to grow, they have  
no time to waste.

And I somehow rather fancy that I'd like to change  
with Clancy,  
Like to take a turn at droving where the seasons  
come and go,  
While he faced the round eternal of the cash-book  
and the journal—  
But I doubt he'd suit the office, Clancy, of The  
Overflow.

## CONROY'S GAP

This was the way of it, don't you know—  
 Ryan was "wanted" for stealing sheep,  
 And never a trooper, high or low,  
 Could find him—catch a weasel asleep!  
 Till Trooper Scott, from the Stockman's Ford—  
 A bushman, too, as I've heard them tell—  
 Chanced to find him drunk as a lord  
 Round at the Shadow of Death Hotel.

D'y'ou know the place? It's a wayside inn,  
 A low grog-shanty—a bushman trap,  
 Hiding away in its shame and sin  
 Under the shelter of Conroy's Gap—  
 Under the shade of that frowning range  
 The roughest crowd that ever drew breath—  
 Thieves and rowdies, uncouth and strange,  
 Were mustered round at the "Shadow of Death."

The trooper knew that his man would slide  
 Like a dingo pup, if he saw the chance;  
 And with half a start on the mountain side  
 Ryan would lead him a merry dance.  
 Drunk as he was when the trooper came,  
 To him that did not matter a rap—  
 Drunk or sober, he was the same,  
 The boldest rider in Conroy's Gap.

"I want you, Ryan," the trooper said,  
"And listen to me, if you dare resist,  
So help me heaven, I'll shoot you dead!"

He snapped the steel on his prisoner's wrist,  
And Ryan, hearing the handcuffs click,  
Recovered his wits as they turned to go,  
For fright will sober a man as quick  
As all the drugs that the doctors know.

There was a girl in that shanty bar  
Went by the name of Kate Carew,  
Quiet and shy as the bush girls are,  
But ready-witted and plucky, too.  
She loved this Ryan, or so they say,  
And passing by, while her eyes were dim  
With tears, she said in a careless way,  
"The Swagman's round in the stable, Jim."

Spoken too low for the trooper's ear,  
Why should she care if he heard or not?  
Plenty of swagmen far and near—  
And yet to Ryan it meant a lot.  
That was the name of the grandest horse  
In all the district from east to west;  
In every show ring, on every course,  
They always counted The Swagman best.

He was a wonder, a raking bay—  
One of the grand old Snowdon strain—  
One of the sort that could race and stay  
With his mighty limbs and his length of rein.

Born and bred on the mountain side,  
 He could race through scrub like a kangaroo;  
 The girl herself on his back might ride,  
 And The Swagman would carry her safely  
 through.

He would travel gaily from daylight's flush  
 Till after the stars hung out their lamps;  
 There was never his like in the open bush,  
 And never his match on the cattle-camps.  
 For faster horses might well be found  
 On racing tracks, or a plain's extent,  
 But few, if any, on broken ground  
 Could see the way that The Swagman went.

When this girl's father, old Jim Carew,  
 Was droving out on the Castlereagh  
 With Conroy's cattle, a wire came through  
 To say that his wife couldn't live the day.  
 And he was a hundred miles from home,  
 As flies the crow, with never a track  
 Through plains as pathless as ocean's foam;  
 He mounted straight on The Swagman's back.

He left the camp by the sundown light,  
 And the settlers out on the Marthaguy  
 Awoke and heard, in the dead of night,  
 A single horseman hurrying by.  
 He crossed the Bogan at Dandaloo,  
 And many a mile of the silent plain  
 That lonely rider behind him threw  
 Before they settled to sleep again.

He rode all night, and he steered his course  
By the shining stars with a bushman's skill,  
And every time that he pressed his horse  
The Swagman answered him gamely still.  
He neared his home as the east was bright.  
The doctor met him outside the town:  
"Carew! How far did you come last night?"  
"A hundred miles since the sun went down."

And his wife got round, and an oath he passed,  
So long as he or one of his breed  
Could raise a coin, though it took their last,  
The Swagman never should want a feed.  
And Kate Carew, when her father died,  
She kept the horse and she kept him well;  
The pride of the district far and wide,  
He lived in style at the bush hotel.

Such was The Swagman; and Ryan knew  
Nothing about could pace the crack;  
Little he'd care for the man in blue  
If once he got on The Swagman's back.  
But how to do it? A word let fall  
Gave him the hint as the girl passed by;  
Nothing but "Swagman—stable wall;  
Go to the stable and mind your eye."

He caught her meaning, and quickly turned  
To the trooper: "Reckon you'll gain a stripe  
By arresting me, and it's easily earned;  
Let's go to the stable and get my pipe,

The Swagman has it." So off they went,  
And as soon as ever they turned their backs  
The girl slipped down, on some errand bent  
Behind the stable and seized an axe.

The trooper stood at the stable door  
While Ryan went in quite cool and slow,  
And then (the trick had been played before)  
The girl outside gave the wall a blow.  
Three slabs fell out of the stable wall—  
'Twas done 'fore ever the trooper knew—  
And Ryan, as soon as he saw them fall,  
Mounted The Swagman and rushed him  
through.

The trooper heard the hoof-beats ring  
In the stable yard, and he slammed the gate,  
But The Swagman rose with a mighty spring  
At the fence, and the trooper fired too late  
As they raced away, and his shots flew wide,  
And Ryan no longer need care a rap,  
For never a horse that was lapped in hide  
Could catch The Swagman in Conroy's Gap.

And that's the story. You want to know  
If Ryan came back to his Kate Carew;  
Of course he should have, as stories go,  
But the worst of it is this story's true:  
And in real life it's a certain rule,  
Whatever poets and authors say  
Of high-toned robbers and all their school,  
These horsethief fellows aren't built that way.

Come back! Don't hope it—the slinking hound,  
He sloped across to the Queensland side,  
And sold The Swagman for fifty pound,  
And stole the money, and more beside.  
And took to drink, and by some good chance  
Was killed—thrown out of a stolen trap.  
And that was the end of this small romance,  
The end of the story of Conroy's Gap.

## OUR NEW HORSE

The boys had come back from the races  
All silent and down on their luck;  
They'd backed 'em, straight out and for places,  
But never a winner they struck.  
They lost their good money on Slogan,  
And fell most uncommonly flat  
When Partner, the pride of the Bogan,  
Was beaten by Aristocrat.

And one said, "I move that instanter  
We sell out our horses and quit;  
The brutes ought to win in a canter,  
Such trials they do when they're fit.  
The last one they ran was a snorter—  
A gallop to gladden one's heart—  
Two-twelve for a mile and a quarter,  
And finished as straight as a dart.

"And then when I think that they're ready  
 To win me a nice little swag,  
 They are licked like the veriest neddy—  
 They're licked from the fall of the flag.  
 The mare held her own to the stable,  
 She died out to nothing at that,  
 And Partner he never seemed able  
 To pace with the Aristocrat.

"And times have been bad, and the seasons  
 Don't promise to be of the best;  
 In short, boys, there's plenty of reasons  
 For giving the racing a rest.  
 The mare can be kept on the station—  
 Her breeding is good as can be—  
 But Partner, his next destination  
 Is rather a trouble to me.

"We can't sell him here, for they know him  
 As well as the clerk of the course;  
 He's raced and won races till, blow him,  
 He's done as a handicap horse.  
 A jady, uncertain performer,  
 They weight him right out of the hunt,  
 And clap it on warmer and warmer  
 Whenever he gets near the front.

"It's no use to paint him or dot him  
 Or put any fake on his brand,  
 For bushmen are smart, and they'd spot him  
 In any sale-yard in the land.

The folk about here could all tell him,  
Could swear to each separate hair;  
Let us send him to Sydney and sell him,  
There's plenty of Jugginses there.

"We'll call him a maiden, and treat 'em  
To trials will open their eyes;  
We'll run their best horses and beat 'em,  
And then won't they think him a prize.  
I pity the fellow that buys him,  
He'll find in a very short space,  
No matter how highly he tries him,  
The beggar won't *race* in a race."

Next week, under "Seller and Buyer,"  
Appeared in the *Daily Gazette* :  
"A racehorse for sale, and a flyer;  
Has never been started as yet;  
A trial will show what his pace is;  
The buyer can get him in light,  
And win all the handicap races.  
Apply before Saturday night."

He sold for a hundred and thirty,  
Because of a gallop he had  
One morning with Bluefish and Bertie,  
And donkey-licked both of 'em bad.  
And when the old horse had departed,  
The life on the station grew tame;  
The race-track was dull and deserted,  
The boys had gone back on the game.

The winter rolled by, and the station  
Was green with the garland of Spring;  
A spirit of glad exultation  
Awoke in each animate thing;  
And all the old love, the old longing,  
Broke out in the breasts of the boys—  
The visions of racing came thronging  
With all its delirious joys.

The rushing of floods in their courses,  
The rattle of rain on the roofs,  
Recalled the fierce rush of the horses,  
The thunder of galloping hoofs.  
And soon one broke out: "I can suffer  
No longer the life of a slug;  
The man that don't race is a duffer,  
Let's have one more run for the mug.

"Why, everything races, no matter  
Whatever its method may be:  
The waterfowl hold a regatta;  
The possums run heats up a tree;  
The emus are constantly sprinting  
A handicap out on the plain;  
It seems that all nature is hinting  
'Tis time to be at it again.

"The cockatoo parrots are talking  
Of races to far-away lands;  
The native companions are walking  
A go-as-you-please on the sands;

The little foals gallop for pastime;  
The wallabies race down the gap;  
Let's try it once more for the last time—  
Bring out the old jacket and cap.

"And now for a horse; we might try one  
Of those that are bred on the place.  
But I fancy it's better to buy one,  
A horse that has proved he can race.  
Let us send down to Sydney to Skinner,  
A thorough good judge who can ride,  
And ask him to buy us a spinner  
To clean out the whole country-side."

They wrote him a letter as follows:  
"We want you to buy us a horse;  
He must have the speed to catch swallows,  
And stamina with it, of course.  
The price ain't a thing that'll grieve us,  
It's getting a bad un annoys  
The undersigned blokes, and believe us,  
We're yours to a cinder, 'the boys.'"

He answered: "I've bought you a hummer,  
A horse that has never been raced;  
I saw him run over The Drummer,  
He held him outclassed and outpaced.  
His breeding's not known, but they state he  
Is born of a thoroughbred strain.  
I've paid them a hundred and eighty,  
And started the horse in the train."

They met him—alas, that these verses  
 Aren't up to the subject's demands,  
 Can't set forth their eloquent curses—  
*For Partner was back on their hands.*  
 They went in to meet him in gladness,  
 They opened his box with delight—  
 A silent procession of sadness  
 They crept to the station at night.

And life has grown dull on the station,  
 The boys are all silent and slow;  
 Their work is a daily vexation,  
 And sport is unknown to them now.  
 Whenever they think how they stranded,  
 They squeal just as guinea-pigs squeal;  
 They'd bit their own hook, and were landed  
 With fifty pounds loss on the deal.

### AN IDYLL OF DANDALOO

On Western plains, where shade is not,  
 'Neath summer skies of cloudless blue,  
 Where all is dry and all is hot,  
 There stands the town of Dandaloo—  
 A township where life's total sum  
 Is sleep, diversified with rum.

Its grass-grown streets with dust are deep;  
 'Twere vain endeavour to express

The dreamless silence of its sleep,  
Its wide, expansive drunkenness.  
The yearly races mostly drew  
A lively crowd to Dandaloo.

There came a sportsman from the East,  
The eastern land where sportsmen blow,  
And brought with him a speedy beast—  
A speedy beast as horses go.  
He came afar in hope to "do"  
The little town of Dandaloo.

Now this was weak of him, I wot—  
Exceeding weak, it seemed to me—  
For we in Dandaloo were not  
The Jugginses we seemed to be;  
In fact, we rather thought we knew  
Our book by heart in Dandaloo.

We held a meeting at the bar,  
And met the question fair and square—  
"We've stumped the country near and far  
To raise the cash for races here;  
We've got a hundred pounds or two—  
Not half so bad for Dandaloo.

"And now, it seems, we have to be  
Cleaned out by this here Sydney bloke,  
With his imported horse; and he  
Will scoop the pool and leave us broke.  
Shall we sit still, and make no fuss  
While this chap climbs all over us?"

The races came to Dandaloo,  
And all the cornstalks from the West  
On every kind of moke and screw  
Came forth in all their glory drest.  
The stranger's horse, as hard as nails,  
Look'd fit to run for New South Wales.

He won the race by half a length—  
*Quite* half a length, it seemed to me—  
But Dandaloo, with all its strength,  
Roared out “Dead heat!” most fervently;  
And, after hesitation meet,  
The judge's verdict was “Dead heat!”

And many men there were could tell  
What gave the verdict extra force:  
The stewards—and the judge as well—  
They all had backed the second horse.  
For things like this they sometimes do  
In larger towns than Dandaloo.

They ran it off; the stranger won,  
Hands down, by near a hundred yards.  
He smiled to think his troubles done;  
But Dandaloo held all the cards.  
They went to scale and—cruel fate!—  
His jockey turned out under weight.

Perhaps they'd tampered with the scale!  
I cannot tell. I only know  
It weighed him out all right. I fail  
To paint that Sydney sportsman's woe.

He said the stewards were a crew  
Of low-lived thieves in Dandaloo.

He lifted up his voice, irate,  
And swore till all the air was blue;  
So then we rose to vindicate  
The dignity of Dandaloo.

“Look here,” said we, “You must not poke  
Such oaths at us poor country folk.”

We rode him softly on a rail,  
We shied at him, in careless glee,  
Some large tomatoes, rank and stale,  
And eggs of great antiquity—  
Their wild, unholly fragrance flew  
About the town of Dandaloo.

He left the town at break of day,  
He led his racehorse through the streets,  
And now he tells the tale, they say,  
To every racing man he meets.  
And Sydney sportsmen all eschew  
The atmosphere of Dandaloo.

### THE GEEBUNG POLO CLUB

It was somewhere up the country, in a land of rock  
and scrub,  
That they formed an institution called the Geebung  
Polo Club.

They were long and wiry natives from the rugged  
mountain side,  
And the horse was never saddled that the Geebung  
couldn't ride;  
But their style of playing polo was irregular and  
rash—  
They had mighty little science, but a mighty lot  
of dash:  
And they played on mountain ponies that were  
muscular and strong,  
Though their coats were quite unpolished, and their  
manes and tails were long.  
And they used to train those ponies wheeling cattle  
in the scrub:  
They were demons, were the members of the Gee-  
bung Polo Club.

It was somewhere down the country, in a city's  
smoke and steam,  
That a polo club existed, called "The Cuff and  
Collar Team."  
As a social institution 'twas a marvellous success,  
For the members were distinguished by exclusive-  
ness and dress.  
They had natty little ponies that were nice, and  
smooth, and sleek,  
For their cultivated owners only rode 'em once a  
week.  
So they started up the country in pursuit of sport  
and fame,  
For they meant to show the Geebung how they  
ought to play the game;

And they took their valets with them—just to give  
their boots a rub  
Ere they started operations on the Geebung Polo  
Club.

Now my readers can imagine how the contest ebbed  
and flowed,

When the Geebung boys got going it was time to  
clear the road;

And the game was so terrific that ere half the time  
was gone

A spectator's leg was broken—just from merely  
looking on.

For they waddied one another till the plain was  
strewn with dead,

While the score was kept so even that they neither  
got ahead.

And the Cuff and Collar Captain, when he tumbled  
off to die

Was the last surviving player—so the game was  
called a tie.

Then the Captain of the Geebungs raised him slowly  
from the ground,

Though his wounds were mostly mortal, yet he  
fiercely gazed around;

There was no one to oppose him—all the rest were  
in a trance,

So he scrambled on his pony for his last expiring  
chance,

For he meant to make an effort to get victory to  
his side;

So he struck at goal—and missed it—then he tumbled  
off and died.

By the old Campaspe River, where the breezes  
shake the grass,  
There's a row of little gravestones that the stock-  
men never pass,  
For they bear a rude inscription saying, "Stranger,  
drop a tear,  
For the Cuff and Collar players and the Geebung  
boys lie here."  
And on misty moonlit evenings, while the dingoes  
howl around,  
You can see their shadows flitting down that  
phantom polo ground;  
You can hear the loud collisions as the flying players  
meet,  
And the rattle of the mallets, and the rush of ponies'  
feet,  
Till the terrified spectator rides like blazes to the  
pub—  
He's been haunted by the spectres of the Geebung  
Polo Club.

#### THE TRAVELLING POST OFFICE

The roving breezes come and go, the reed-beds  
sweep and sway,  
The sleepy river murmurs low, and loiters on its  
way,  
It is the land of lots o' time along the Castlereagh.

The old man's son had left the farm, he found it  
dull and slow,  
He drifted to the great North-west, where all the  
rovers go.  
"He's gone so long," the old man said, "he's dropped  
right out of mind,  
But if you'd write a line to him I'd take it very  
kind;  
He's shearing here and fencing there, a kind of  
waif and stray—  
He's droving now with Conroy's sheep along the  
Castlereagh.

"The sheep are travelling for the grass, and travel-  
ling very slow;  
They may be at Mundooran now, or past the Over-  
flow,  
Or tramping down the black-soil flats across by  
Waddiwong;  
But all those little country towns would send the  
letter wrong.  
The mailman, if he's extra tired, would pass them  
in his sleep;  
It's safest to address the note to 'Care of Conroy's  
sheep,'  
For five and twenty thousand head can scarcely  
go astray,  
You write to 'Care of Conroy's sheep along the  
Castlereagh.'"

By rock and ridge and riverside the western mail  
has gone  
Across the great Blue Mountain Range to take that  
letter on.  
A moment on the topmast grade, while open fire-  
doors glare,  
She pauses like a living thing to breathe the moun-  
tain air,  
Then launches down the other side across the plains  
away  
To bear that note to "Conroy's sheep along the  
Castlereagh."

And now by coach and mailman's bag it goes from  
town to town,  
And Conroy's Gap and Conroy's Creek have marked  
it "Further down."  
Beneath a sky of deepest blue, where never cloud  
abides,  
A speck upon the waste of plain the lonely mail-  
man rides.  
Where fierce hot winds have set the pine and myall  
boughs asweep  
He hails the shearers passing by for news of  
Conroy's sheep.  
By big lagoons where wildfowl play and crested  
pigeons flock,  
By camp-fires where the drovers ride around their  
restless stock,  
And past the teamster toiling down to fetch the  
wool away  
My letter chases Conroy's sheep along the Castle-  
reagh.

## SALTBUSH BILL

Now this is the law of the Overland that all in the  
West obey—

A man must cover with travelling sheep a six-mile  
stage a day;

But this is the law which the drovers make, right  
easily understood,

They travel their stage where the grass is bad,  
but they camp where the grass is good;

They camp, and they ravage the squatter's grass  
till never a blade remains,

Then they drift away as the white clouds drift on  
the edge of the saltbush plains;

From camp to camp and from run to run they battle  
it hand to hand

For a blade of grass and the right to pass on the  
track of the Overland.

For this is the law of the Great Stock Routes, 'tis  
written in white and black—

The man that goes with a travelling mob must keep  
to a half-mile track;

And the drovers keep to a half-mile track on the  
runs where the grass is dead,

But they spread their sheep on a well-grassed run  
till they go with a two-mile spread.

So the squatters hurry the drovers on from dawn  
till the fall of night,

And the squatters' dogs and the drovers' dogs get  
mixed in a deadly fight.

Yet the squatters' men, though they hunt the mob,  
are willing the peace to keep,  
For the drovers learn how to use their hands when  
they go with the travelling sheep;  
But this is the tale of a Jackaroo that came from a  
foreign strand,  
And the fight that he fought with Saltbush Bill,  
the King of the Overland.

Now Saltbush Bill was a drover tough as ever the  
country knew,  
He had fought his way on the Great Stock Routes  
from the sea to the big Barcoo;  
He could tell when he came to a friendly run that  
gave him a chance to spread,  
And he knew where the hungry owners were that  
hurried his sheep ahead;  
He was drifting down in the Eighty drought with a  
mob that could scarcely creep  
(When the kangaroos by the thousand starve, it is  
rough on the travelling sheep),  
And he camped one night at the crossing-place on  
the edge of the Wilga run;  
"We must manage a feed for them here," he said,  
"or half of the mob are done!"  
So he spread them out when they left the camp  
wherever they liked to go,  
Till he grew aware of a Jackaroo with a station-  
hand in tow.  
They set to work on the straggling sheep, and with  
many a stockwhip crack  
They forced them in where the grass was dead in  
the space of the half-mile track;

And William prayed that the hand of Fate might  
suddenly strike him blue  
But he'd get some grass for his starving sheep in  
the teeth of that Jackaroo.  
So he turned and he cursed the Jackaroo; he cursed  
him, alive or dead,  
From the soles of his great unwieldy feet to the  
crown of his ugly head,  
With an extra curse on the moke he rode and the  
cur at his heels that ran,  
Till the Jackaroo from his horse got down and went  
for the drover-man;  
With the station-hand for his picker-up, though the  
sheep ran loose the while,  
They battled it out on the well-grassed plain in the  
regular prize-ring style.

Now, the new chum fought for his honour's sake  
and the pride of the English race,  
But the drover fought for his daily bread with a  
smile on his bearded face;  
So he shifted ground, and he sparred for wind, and  
he made it a lengthy mill,  
And from time to time as his scouts came in they  
whispered to Saltbush Bill—  
"We have spread the sheep with a two-mile spread,  
and the grass it is something grand;  
You must stick to him, Bill, for another round  
for the pride of the Overland."  
The new chum made it a rushing fight, though never  
a blow got home,  
Till the sun rode high in the cloudless sky and  
glared on the brick-red loam,

Till the sheep drew in to the shelter-trees and  
settled them down to rest;  
Then the drover said he would fight no more, and  
gave his opponent best.

So the new chum rode to the homestead straight,  
and told them a story grand  
Of the desperate fight that he fought that day with  
the King of the Overland;  
And the tale went home to the Public Schools of  
the pluck of the English swell—  
How the drover fought for his very life, but blood  
in the end must tell.  
But the travelling sheep and the Wilga sheep were  
boxed on the Old Man Plain;  
'Twas a full week's work ere they drafted out and  
hunted them off again;  
A week's good grass in their wretched hides, with  
a curse and a stockwhip crack  
They hunted them off on the road once more to  
starve on the half-mile track.  
And Saltbush Bill, on the Overland, will many a  
time recite  
How the best day's work that he ever did was the  
day that he lost the fight.

## A MOUNTAIN STATION

I bought a run a while ago  
On country rough and ridgy,  
Where wallaroos and wombats grow—  
The Upper Murrumbidgee.  
The grass is rather scant, it's true,  
But this a fair exchange is,  
The sheep can see a lovely view  
By climbing up the ranges.

And She-oak Flat's the station's name,  
I'm not surprised at that, sirs:  
The oaks were there before I came,  
And I supplied the flat, sirs.  
A man would wonder how it's done,  
The stock so soon decreases—  
They sometimes tumble off the run  
And break themselves to pieces.

I've tried to make expenses meet,  
But wasted all my labours;  
The sheep the dingoes didn't eat  
Were stolen by the neighbours.  
They stole my pears—my native pears—  
Those thrice-convicted felons,  
And ravished from me unawares  
My crop of paddy-melons.

And sometimes under sunny skies,  
Without an explanation,

The Murrumbidgee used to rise  
 And overflow the station.  
 But this was caused (as now I know)  
 When summer sunshine glowing  
 Had melted all Kiandra's snow  
 And set the river going.

Then in the news, perhaps, you read:  
 "Stock Passings. Puckawidgee,  
 Fat cattle: Seven hundred head  
 Swept down the Murrumbidgee;  
 Their destination's quite obscure,  
 But, somehow, there's a notion,  
 Unless the river falls, they're sure  
 To reach the Southern Ocean."

So after that I'll give it best;  
 No more with Fate I'll battle.  
 I'll let the river take the rest,  
 For those were all my cattle.  
 And with one comprehensive curse  
 I close my brief narration,  
 And advertise it in my verse—  
 "For Sale! A Mountain Station."

#### BEEN THERE BEFORE.

There came a stranger to Walgett town,  
 To Walgett town when the sun was low,  
 And he carried a thirst that was worth a crown,  
 Yet how to quench it he did not know;

But he thought he might take those yokels down,  
The guileless yokels of Walgett town.

They made him a bet in a private bar,  
In a private bar when the talk was high,  
And they bet him some pounds no matter how far  
He could pelt a stone, yet he could not shy  
A stone right over the river so brown,  
The Darling River at Walgett town.

He knew that the river from bank to bank  
Was fifty yards, and he smiled a smile  
As he trundled down; but his hopes they sank,  
For there wasn't a stone within fifty mile;  
For the saltbush plain and the open down  
Produce no quarries in Walgett town.

The yokels laughed at his hopes o'erthrown,  
And he stood awhile like a man in a dream;  
Then out of his pocket he fetched a stone,  
And pelted it over the silent stream—  
He'd been there before; he had wandered down  
On a previous visit to Walgett town.

### THE MAN WHO WAS AWAY

The widow sought the lawyer's room with children  
three in tow,  
She told the lawyer man her tale in tones of deepest  
woe.

She said, "My husband took to drink for pains in  
his inside,  
And never drew a sober breath from then until  
he died.

"He never drew a sober breath, he died without a  
will,  
And I must sell the bit of land the childer's mouths  
to fill.  
There's some is grown and gone away, but some is  
childer yet,  
And times is very bad indeed—a livin's hard to get.

"There's Min and Sis and little Chris, they stops  
at home with me,  
And Sal has married Greenhide Bill that breaks  
for Bingeree.  
And Fred is drovin' Conroy's sheep along the  
Castlereagh  
And Charley's shearin' down the Bland, and Peter  
is away."

The lawyer wrote the details down in ink of legal  
blue—  
"There's Minnie, Susan, Christopher, they stop at  
home with you;  
There's Sarah, Frederick, and Charles, I'll write  
to them to-day,  
But what about the other son—the one who is  
away?"

"You'll have to furnish his consent to sell the bit of land."

The widow shuffled in her seat, "Oh, don't you understand?

I thought a lawyer ought to know—I don't know what to say—

You'll have to do without him, boss, for Peter is away."

But here the little boy spoke up—said he, "We thought you knew;

He's done six months in Goulburn gaol—he's got six more to do."

Thus in one comprehensive flash he made it clear as day,

The mystery of Peter's life—the man who was away.

### THE MAN FROM IRONBARK

It was the man from Ironbark who struck the Sydney town,

He wandered over street and park, he wandered up and down.

He loitered here, he loitered there, till he was like to drop,

Until at last in sheer despair he sought a barber's shop.

"'Ere! shave my beard and whiskers off, I'll be a man of mark,

I'll go and do the Sydney toff up home in Ironbark."

The barber man was small and flash, as barbers mostly are,  
He wore a strike-your-fancy sash, he smoked a huge cigar:  
He was a humorist of note and keen at repartee,  
He laid the odds and kept a "tote," whatever that may be,  
And when he saw our friend arrive, he whispered  
"Here's a lark!  
Just watch me catch him all alive this man from Ironbark."

There were some gilded youths that sat along the barber's wall,  
Their eyes were dull, their heads were flat, they had no brains at all;  
To them the barber passed the wink, his dexter eyelid shut,  
"I'll make this bloomin' yokel think his bloomin' throat is cut."  
And as he soaped and rubbed it in he made a rude remark:  
"I s'pose the flats is pretty green up there in Ironbark."

A grunt was all reply he got; he shaved the bushman's chin,  
Then made the water boiling hot and dipped the razor in.  
He raised his hand, his brow grew black, he paused awhile to gloat,

Then slashed the red-hot razor-back across his victim's throat;  
Upon the newly-shaven skin it made a livid mark—  
No doubt it fairly took him in—the man from Ironbark.

He fetched a wild up-country yell might wake the dead to hear,  
And though his throat, he knew full well, was cut from ear to ear,  
He struggled gamely to his feet, and faced the murderous foe:  
"You've done for me! you dog, I'm beat! one hit before I go!  
I only wish I had a knife, you blessed murdering shark!  
But you'll remember all your life the man from Ironbark."

He lifted up his hairy paw, with one tremendous clout  
He landed on the barber's jaw, and knocked the barber out.  
He set to work with tooth and nail, he made the place a wreck;  
He grabbed the nearest gilded youth, and tried to break his neck.  
And all the while his throat he held to save his vital spark,  
And "Murder! Bloody Murder!" yelled the man from Ironbark.

A peeler man who heard the din came in to see  
the show;  
He tried to run the bushman in, but he refused  
to go.  
And when at last the barber spoke, and said " 'Twas  
all in fun—  
'Twas just a little harmless joke, a trifle overdone."  
"A joke!" he cried, "By George, that's fine; a lively  
sort of lark;  
I'd like to catch that murdering swine some night  
in Ironbark."

And now while round the shearing-floor the listen-  
ing shearers gape,  
He tells the story o'er and o'er, and brags of his  
escape.  
"Them barber chaps what keeps a tote, by George,  
I've had enough,  
One tried to cut my bloomin' throat, but thank  
the Lord it's tough."  
And whether he's believed or no, there's one thing  
to remark,  
That flowing beards are all the go way up in Iron-  
bark.

### THE OPEN STEEPLECHASE

I had ridden over hurdles up the country once or  
twice,  
By the side of Snowy River with a horse they  
called "The Ace."

And we brought him down to Sydney, and our  
rider, Jimmy Rice,  
Got a fall and broke his shoulder, so they nabbed  
me in a trice—  
Me, that never wore the colours, for the Open  
Steeplechase.

“Make the running,” said the trainer, “it’s your  
only chance whatever,  
Make it hot from start to finish, for the old black  
horse can stay,  
And just think of how they’ll take it, when they  
hear on Snowy River  
That the country boy was plucky, and the country  
horse was clever.  
You must ride for old Monaro and the mountain  
boys to-day.”

“Are you ready?” said the starter, as we held the  
horses back,  
All ablazing with impatience, with excitement all  
aglow;  
Before us like a ribbon stretched the steeplechasing  
track,  
And the sun-rays glistened brightly on the chestnut  
and the black  
As the starter’s words came slowly, “Are—you—  
ready? Go!”

Well I scarcely knew we’d started, I was stupid—  
like with wonder  
Till the field closed up beside me and a jump  
appeared ahead.

And we flew it like a hurdle, not a baulk and not a blunder,  
As we charged it all together, and it fairly whistled under,  
And then some were pulled behind me and a few shot out and led.

So we ran for half the distance, and I'm making no pretences  
When I tell you I was feeling very nervous-like and queer,  
For those jockeys rode like demons; you would think they'd lost their senses  
If you saw them rush their horses at those rasping five-foot fences—  
And in place of making running I was falling to the rear.

Till a chap came racing past me on a horse they called "The Quiver,"  
And said he, "My country joker, are you going to give it best?  
Are you frightened of the fences? does their stoutness make you shiver?  
Have they come to breeding cowards by the side of Snowy River?  
Are there riders on Monaro?—" but I never heard the rest.

For I drove The Ace and sent him just as fast as he could pace it  
At the big black line of timber stretching fair across the track,

And he shot beside The Quiver. "Now," said I,  
"my boy, we'll race it.  
You can come with Snowy River if you're only  
game to face it,  
Let us mend the pace a little and we'll see who  
cries a crack."

So we raced away together, and we left the others  
standing,  
And the people cheered and shouted as we settled  
down to ride,  
And we clung beside The Quiver. At his taking off  
and landing  
I could see his scarlet nostril and his mighty ribs  
expanding,  
And The Ace stretched out in earnest, and we held  
him stride for stride.

But the pace was so terrific that they soon ran out  
their tether—  
They were rolling in their gallop, they were fairly  
blown and beat—  
But they both were game as pebbles—neither one  
would show the feather.  
And we rushed them at the fences, and they cleared  
them both together,  
Nearly every time they clouted, but they somehow  
kept their feet.

Then the last jump rose before us, and they faced  
it game as ever—  
We were both at spur and whipcord, fetching blood  
at every bound—

And above the people's cheering and the cries of  
"Ace" and "Quiver,"  
I could hear the trainer shouting, "One more run  
for Snowy River."  
Then we struck the jump together and came smash-  
ing to the ground.

Well, The Quiver ran to blazes, but The Ace stood  
still and waited,  
Stood and waited like a statue while I scrambled on  
his back.  
There was no one next or near me for the field was  
fairly slated,  
So I cantered home a winner with my shoulder  
dislocated,  
While the man who rode The Quiver followed limp-  
ing down the track.

And he shook my hand and told me that in all his  
days he never  
Met a man who rode more gamely, and our last  
set-to was prime.  
Then we wired them on Monaro how we chanced to  
beat The Quiver,  
And they sent us back an answer, "Good old sort  
from Snowy River:  
Send us word each race you start in and we'll  
back you every time."

## THE AMATEUR RIDER

*Him* going to ride for us! *Him*—with the pants and the eyeglass and all.

Amateur! don't he just look it—it's twenty to one on a fall.

Boss must be gone off his head to be sending our steeplechase crack

Out over fences like these with an object like that on his back.

Ride! Don't tell *me* he can ride. With his pants just as loose as balloons,

How can he sit on a horse? and his spurs like a pair of harpoons;

Ought to be under the Dog Act, he ought, and be kept off the course.

Fall! why, he'd fall off a cart, let alone off a steeple-chase horse.

Yessir! the 'orse is all ready—I wish you'd have rode him before;

Nothing like knowing your 'orse, sir, and this chap's a terror to bore;

Battleaxe always could pull, and he rushes his fences like fun—

Stands off his jump twenty feet, and then springs like a shot from a gun.

Oh, he can jump 'em all right, sir, you make no  
mistake, 'e's a toff—  
Clouts 'em in earnest, too, sometimes; you mind  
that he don't clout you off—  
Don't seem to mind how he hits 'em, his shins is as  
hard as a nail,  
Sometimes you'll see the fence shake and the  
splinters fly up from the rail.

All you can do is to hold him and just let him jump  
as he likes,  
Give him his head at the fences, and hang on like  
death if he strikes;  
Don't let him run himself out—you can lie third or  
fourth in the race—  
Until you clear the stone wall, and from that you  
can put on the pace.

Fell at that wall once, he did, and it gave him a  
regular spread,  
Ever since that time he flies it—he'll stop if you pull  
at his head,  
Just let him race—you can trust him—he'll take  
first-class care he don't fall,  
And I think that's the lot—but remember, he must  
have his head at the wall.

Well, he's down safe as far as the start, and he  
seems to sit on pretty neat,  
Only his baggified breeches would ruinate anyone's  
seat—

They're away—here they come—the first fence, and  
he's head over heels for a crown!  
Good for the new chum, he's over, and two of the  
others are down!

Now for the treble, my hearty—By Jove, he can  
ride, after all;  
Whoop, that's your sort—let him fly them! He  
hasn't much fear of a fall.  
Who in the world would have thought it? And  
aren't they just going a pace?  
Little Recruit in the lead there will make it a stoutly-  
run race.

Lord! but they're racing in earnest—and down goes  
Recruit on his head,  
Rolling clean over his boy—it's a miracle if he ain't  
dead.  
Battleaxe, Battleaxe, yet! By the Lord, he's got  
most of 'em beat—  
Ho! did you see how he struck, and the swell never  
moved in his seat?

Second time round, and, by Jingo! he's holding his  
lead of 'em well;  
Hark to him clouting the timber! It don't seem to  
trouble the swell.  
Now for the wall—let him rush it. A thirty-foot  
leap, I declare—  
Never a shift in his seat, and he's racing for home  
like a hare.

What's that that's chasing him—Rataplan—regular  
demon to stay!  
Sit down and ride for your life now! Oh, good,  
that's the style—come away!  
Rataplan's certain to beat you, unless you can give  
him the slip;  
Sit down and rub in the whalebone—now give him  
the spurs and the whip!

Battleaxe, Battleaxe, yet—and it's Battleaxe wins  
for a crown;  
Look at him rushing the fences, he wants to bring  
t'other chap down.  
Rataplan never will catch him if only he keeps on  
his pins;  
Now! the last fence! and he's over it! Battleaxe.  
Battleaxe wins!

Well, sir, you rode him just perfect—I knew from  
the fust you could ride.  
Some of the chaps said you couldn't, an' I says just  
like this a' one side:  
Mark me, I says, that's a tradesman—the saddle is  
where he was bred.  
Weight! you're all right, sir, and thank you; and  
them was the words that I said.

## ON KILEY'S RUN

The roving breezes come and go  
    On Kiley's Run,  
The sleepy river murmurs low,  
And far away one dimly sees  
    Beyond the stretch of forest trees—  
    Beyond the foothills dusk and dun—  
The ranges sleeping in the sun  
    On Kiley's Run.

'Tis many years since first I came  
    To Kiley's Run,  
More years than I would care to name  
Since I, a stripling, used to ride  
For miles and miles at Kiley's side,  
The while in stirring tones he told  
The stories of the days of old  
    On Kiley's Run.

I see the old bush homestead now  
    On Kiley's Run,  
Just nestled down beneath the brow  
Of one small ridge above the sweep  
Of river-flat, where willows weep  
And jasmine flowers and roses bloom:  
The air was laden with perfume  
    On Kiley's Run.

We lived the good old station life  
On Kiley's Run,  
With little thought of care or strife.  
Old Kiley seldom used to roam,  
He liked to make the Run his home;  
The swagman never turned away  
With empty hand at close of day  
From Kiley's Run.

We kept a racehorse now and then  
On Kiley's Run,  
And neighbouring stations brought their men  
To meetings where the sport was free,  
And dainty ladies came to see  
Their champions ride; with laugh and song  
The old house rang the whole night long  
On Kiley's Run.

The station-hands were friends, I wot,  
On Kiley's Run,  
A reckless, merry-hearted lot—  
All splendid riders, and they knew  
The boss was kindness through and through.  
Old Kiley always stood their friend,  
And so they served him to the end  
On Kiley's Run.

But droughts and losses came apace  
To Kiley's Run,  
Till ruin stared him in the face;  
He toiled and toiled while lived the light,  
He dreamed of overdrafts at night:

At length, because he could not pay,  
His bankers took the stock away  
From Kiley's Run.

Old Kiley stood and saw them go  
From Kiley's Run.

The well-bred cattle marching slow;  
His stockmen, mates for many a day,  
They wrung his hand and went away.  
Too old to make another start,  
Old Kiley died—of broken heart,  
On Kiley's Run.

• • • •  
The owner lives in England now  
Of Kiley's Run.

He knows a racehorse from a cow;  
But that is all he knows of stock:  
His chiefest care is how to dock  
Expenses, and he sends from town  
To cut the shearers' wages down  
On Kiley's Run.

There are no neighbours anywhere  
Near Kiley's Run.

The hospitable homes are bare,  
The gardens gone; for no pretence  
Must hinder cutting down expense;  
The homestead that we held so dear  
Contains a half-paid overseer  
On Kiley's Run.

All life and sport and hope have died  
On Kiley's Run.

No longer there the stockmen ride;  
For sour-faced boundary riders creep  
On mongrel horses after sheep,  
Through ranges where, at racing speed,  
Old Kiley used to "wheel the lead"

On Kiley's Run.

There runs a lane for thirty miles  
Through Kiley's Run.

On either side the herbage smiles,  
But wretched travelling sheep must pass  
Without a drink or blade of grass  
Through that long lane of death and shame:  
The weary drovers curse the name  
Of Kiley's Run.

The name itself is changed of late  
Of Kiley's Run.

They call it "Chandos Park Estate."  
The lonely swagman through the dark  
Must hump his swag past Chandos Park—  
The name is English, don't you see;  
The old name sweeter sounds to me  
Of Kiley's Run.

I cannot guess what fate will bring  
To Kiley's Run—  
For chances come and changes ring—  
I scarcely think 'twill always be  
Locked up to suit an absentee;  
And if he lets it out in farms  
His tenants soon will carry arms  
On Kiley's Run.

## FRYING PAN'S THEOLOGY

Scene: On Monaro.

*Dramatis Personae*

Shock-headed blackfellow,  
Boy (on a pony).

Snowflakes are falling  
Gentle and slow,  
Youngster says, "Frying Pan,  
What makes it snow?"

Frying Pan, confident,  
Makes the reply—  
"Shake 'im big flour bag  
Up in the sky!"

"What! when there's miles of it?  
Surely that's brag.  
Who is there strong enough  
Shake such a bag?"

"What parson tellin' you,  
Ole Mister Dodd,  
Tell you in Sunday-school?  
Big pfeller God!"

"Him drive 'im bullock dray,  
Then thunder go;  
Him shake 'im flour bag—  
Tumble down snow!"

## THE TWO DEVINES

It was shearing-time at the Myall Lake,  
And there rose the sound through the livelong day  
Of the constant clash that the shear-blades make  
When the fastest shearers are making play;  
But there wasn't a man in the shearers' lines  
That could shear a sheep with the two Devines.

They had rung the sheds of the east and west,  
Had beaten the cracks of the Walgett side,  
And the Cooma shearers had given them best—  
When they saw them shear, they were satisfied.  
From the southern slopes to the western pines  
They were noted men, were the two Devines.

'Twas a wether flock that had come to hand,  
Great struggling brutes, that the shearers shirk,  
For the fleece was filled with the grass and sand,  
And seventy sheep was a big day's work.  
"At a pound a hundred it's dashed hard lines  
To shear such sheep," said the two Devines.

But the shearers knew that they'd make a cheque  
When they came to deal with the station ewes;  
They were bare of belly and bare of neck  
With a fleece as light as a kangaroo's.  
"We will show the boss how a shear-blade shines  
When we reach those ewes," said the two Devines.

it chanced next day, when the stunted pines  
Were swayed and stirred by the dawn-wind's  
breath,

That a message came for the two Devines  
That their father lay at the point of death.  
So away at speed through the whispering pines  
Down the bridle-track rode the two Devines.

It was fifty miles to their father's hut,  
And the dawn was bright when they rode away;  
At the fall of night, when the shed was shut  
And the men had rest from the toilsome day,  
To the shed once more through the darkening pines  
On their weary steeds came the two Devines.

"Well, you're back right sudden," the super said;  
"Is the old man dead and the funeral done?"  
"Well, no, sir, he ain't not exactly dead,  
But as good as dead," said the eldest son—  
"And we couldn't bear such a chance to lose,  
So we came straight back to tackle the ewes."

They are shearing ewes at the Myall Lake,  
And the shed is merry the livelong day  
With the clashing sound that the shear-blades make  
When the fastest shearers are making play;  
And a couple of "hundred and ninety-nines"  
Are the tallies made by the two Devines.

## IN THE DROVING DAYS

"Only a pound," said the auctioneer,  
"Only a pound; and I'm standing here  
Selling this animal, gain or loss—  
Only a pound for the drover's horse?  
One of the sort that was ne'er afraid,  
One of the boys of the Old Brigade;  
Thoroughly honest and game, I'll swear,  
Only a little the worse for wear;  
Plenty as bad to be seen in town,  
Give me a bid and I'll knock him down;  
Sold as he stands, and without recourse,  
Give me a bid for the drover's horse."

Loitering there in an aimless way  
Somehow I noticed the poor old grey,  
Weary and battered and screwed, of course;  
Yet when I noticed the old grey horse,  
The rough bush saddle, and single rein  
Of the bridle laid on his tangled mane,  
Straightway the crowd and the auctioneer  
Seemed on a sudden to disappear,  
Melted away in a kind of haze—  
For my heart went back to the droving days.

Back to the road, and I crossed again  
Over the miles of the saltbush plain—  
The shining plain that is said to be  
The dried-up bed of an inland sea,

Where the air so dry and so clear and bright  
Refracts the sun with a wondrous light,  
And out in the dim horizon makes  
The deep blue gleam of the phantom lakes.

At dawn of day we could feel the breeze  
That stirred the boughs of the sleeping trees,  
And brought a breath of the fragrance rare  
That comes and goes in that scented air;  
For the trees and grass and the shrubs contain  
A dry sweet scent on the saltbush plain.  
For those that love it and understand  
The saltbush plain is a wonderland,  
A wondrous country, where Nature's ways  
Were revealed to me in the droving days.

We saw the fleet wild horses pass,  
And the kangaroos through the Mitchell grass;  
The emu ran with her frightened brood  
All unmolested and unpursued.  
But there rose a shout and a wild hubbub  
When the dingo raced for his native scrub,  
And he paid right dear for his stolen meals  
With the drover's dogs at his wretched heels.  
For we ran him down at a rattling pace,  
While the pack-horse joined in the stirring chase.  
And a wild halloo at the kill we'd raise—  
We were light of heart in the droving days.

'Twas a drover's horse, and my hand again  
Made a move to close on a fancied rein.  
For I felt the swing and the easy stride  
Of the grand old horse that I used to ride.

In drought or plenty, in good or ill,  
The same old steed was my comrade still;  
The old grey horse with his honest ways  
Was a mate to me in the droving days.

When we kept our watch in the cold and damp,  
If the cattle broke from the sleeping camp,  
Over the flats and across the plain,  
With my head bent down on his waving mane,  
Through the boughs above and the stumps below,  
On the darkest night I could let him go  
At a racing speed; he would choose his course,  
And my life was safe with the old grey horse.  
But man and horse had a favourite job,  
When an outlaw broke from a station mob;  
With a right good will was the stockwhip plied,  
As the old horse raced at the straggler's side,  
And the greenhide whip such a weal would raise—  
We could use the whip in the droving days.

“Only a pound!” and was this the end—  
Only a pound for the drover’s friend.  
The drover’s friend that had seen his day,  
And now was worthless and cast away  
With a broken knee and a broken heart  
To be flogged and starved in a hawker’s cart.  
Well, I made a bid for a sense of shame  
And the memories dear of the good old game.

“Thank you? Guinea! and cheap at that!  
Against you there in the curly hat!

Only a guinea, and one more chance,  
Down he goes if there's no advance,  
Third, and the last time, one! two! three!"  
And the old grey horse was knocked down to me.  
And now he's wandering, fat and sleek,  
On the lucerne flats by the Homestead Creek;  
I dare not ride him for fear he'd fall,  
But he does a journey to beat them all,  
For though he scarcely a trot can raise,  
He can take me back to the droving days.

## LOST

"He ought to be home," said the old man, "without there's something amiss.  
He only went to the Two-mile—he ought to be back by this.  
He *would* ride the Reckless filly, he *would* have his wilful way;  
And here, he's not back at sundown—and what will his mother say?

"He was always his mother's idol, since ever his father died;  
And there isn't a horse on the station that he isn't game to ride.  
But that Reckless mare is vicious, and if once she gets away  
He hasn't got strength to hold her—and what will his mother say?"

The old man walked to the sliprail, and peered up  
the darkening track,  
And looked and longed for the rider that would  
never more come back;  
And the mother came and clutched him, with sudden,  
spasmodic fright:  
"What has become of my Willie?—why isn't he  
home to-night?"

Away in the gloomy ranges, at the foot of an iron-  
bark,  
The bonnie, winsome laddie was lying stiff and stark;  
For the Reckless mare had smashed him against a  
leaning limb,  
And his comely face was battered, and his merry  
eyes were dim.

And the thoroughbred chestnut filly, the saddle be-  
neath her flanks,  
Was away like fire through the ranges to join the  
wild mob's ranks;  
And a broken-hearted woman and an old man worn  
and white  
Were searching all day in the ranges till the sun-  
down brought the night.

And the mother kept feebly calling, with a hope  
that would not die,  
"Willie! where are you, Willie?" But how can the  
dead reply?

And hope died out with the daylight, and the darkness brought despair.

God pity the stricken mother, and answer the widow's prayer!

Though far and wide they sought him, they found not where he fell;

For the ranges held him precious, and guarded their treasure well.

The wattle blooms above him, and the blue bells blow close by,

And the brown bees buzz the secret, and the wild birds sing reply.

But the mother pined and faded, and cried, and took no rest,

And rode each day to the ranges on her hopeless, weary quest,

Seeking her loved one ever, she faded and pined away,

But with strength of her great affection she still sought every day.

"I know that sooner or later I shall find my boy," she said.

But she came not home one evening, and they found her lying dead,

And stamped on the poor pale features, as the spirit homeward passed,

Was an angel smile of gladness—she had found her boy at last.

### OVER THE RANGE

Little bush maiden, wondering-eyed,  
Playing alone in the creek-bed dry,  
In the small green flat on every side  
Walled in by the Moonbi ranges high;  
Tell me the tale of your lonely life  
'Mid the great grey forests that know no change.  
"I never have left my home," she said,  
"I have never been over the Moonbi Range.

"Father and mother are both long dead,  
And I live with granny in yon wee place."  
"Where are your father and mother?" I said.  
She puzzled awhile with thoughtful face,  
Then a light came into the shy brown eye,  
And she smiled, for she thought the question  
strange  
On a thing so certain—"When people die  
They go to the country over the range."

"And what is this country like, my lass?"  
"There are blossoming trees and pretty flowers,  
And shining creeks where the golden grass  
Is fresh and sweet from the summer showers.  
They never need work, nor want, nor weep;  
No troubles can come their hearts to estrange.  
Some summer night I shall fall asleep,  
And wake in the country over the range."

Child, you are wise in your simple trust,  
For the wisest man knows no more than you.  
Ashes to ashes, and dust to dust:  
Our views by a range are bounded too;  
But we know that God hath this gift in store,  
That, when we come to the final change,  
We shall meet with our loved ones gone before  
To the beautiful country over the range.

## ONLY A JOCKEY

*"Richard Bennison, a jockey, aged fourteen, while rid'n<sup>g</sup> William Tell in his training, was thrown and killed. The horse is luckily uninjured."*—*Melbourne Wire.*

Out in the grey cheerless chill of the morning light,  
Out on the track where the night shades still lurk,  
Ere the first gleam of the sungod's returning light  
Round come the racehorses early at work.

Reefing and pulling and racing so readily,  
Close sit the jockey-boys holding them hard,  
"Steady the stallion there—canter him steadily,  
Don't let him gallop so much as a yard."

Fiercely he fights while the others run wide of him,  
Reefs at the bit that would hold him in thrall,  
Plunges and bucks till the boy that's astride of him  
Goes to the ground with a terrible fall.

"Stop him there! Block him there! Drive him in  
carefully,

Lead him about till he's quiet and cool.  
Sound as a bell! though he's blown himself fearfully,  
Now let us pick up this poor little fool.

"Stunned? Oh, by Jove, I'm afraid it's a case with  
him;

Ride for the doctor! keep bathing his head!  
Send for a cart to go down to our place with him"—  
No use! One long sigh and the little chap's dead.

Only a jockey-boy, foul-mouthing and bad you see,  
Ignorant, heathenish, gone to his rest.

Parson or Presbyter, Pharisee, Sadducee,  
What did you do for him?—bad was the best.

Negroes and foreigners, all have a claim on you;

Yearly you send your well-advertised hoard,  
But the poor jockey-boy—shame on you, shame on  
you,

"Feed ye My little ones"—what said the Lord?

Him ye held less than the outer barbarian.

Left him to die in his ignorant sin;  
Have you no principles humanitarian?  
Have you no precept—"Go gather them in?"

Knew he God's name? In his brutal profanity  
That name was an oath—out of many but one.  
What did he get from our famed Christianity?  
Where has his soul—if he had any—gone?

Fourteen years old, and what was he taught of it?  
What did he know of God's infinite Grace?  
Draw the dark curtain of shame o'er the thought  
of it,  
Draw the shroud over the jockey-boy's face.

## HOW M'GINNIS WENT MISSING

Let us cease our idle chatter,  
Let the tears bedew our cheek,  
For a man from Tallangatta  
Has been missing for a week.

Where the roaring flooded Murray  
Covered all the lower land,  
There he started in a hurry,  
With a bottle in his hand.

And his fate is hid for ever,  
But the public seem to think  
That he slumbered by the river,  
'Neath the influence of drink.

And they scarcely seem to wonder  
That the river, wide and deep,  
Never woke him with its thunder,  
Never stirred him in his sleep.

As the crashing logs came sweeping,  
 And their tumult filled the air,  
 Then M'Ginnis murmured, sleeping,  
 " 'Tis a wake in ould Kildare."

So the river rose and found him  
 Sleeping softly by the stream,  
 And the cruel waters drowned him  
 Ere he wakened from his dream.

And the blossom-tufted wattle,  
 Blooming brightly on the lea,  
 Saw M'Ginnis and the bottle  
 Going drifting out to sea.

#### A VOICE FROM THE TOWN

*A sequel to Mowbray Morris's "A Voice from the Bush."*

I thought, in the days of my droving,  
 Of steps I might hope to retrace,  
 To be done with the bush and the roving  
 And settle once more in my place.  
 With a heart that was wellnigh to breaking,  
 In the long, lonely rides on the plain,  
 I thought of the pleasure of taking  
 The hand of a lady again.

I am back into civilization,  
 Once more in the stir and the strife,  
 But the old joys have lost their sensation—  
 The light has gone out of my life;

The men of my time they have married,  
Made fortunes or gone to the wall;  
Too long from the scene I have tarried,  
And, somehow, I'm out of it all.

For I go to the balls and the races  
A lonely companionless elf,  
And the ladies bestow all their graces  
On others less grey than myself;  
While the talk goes around I'm a dumb one  
'Midst youngsters that chatter and prate,  
And they call me "The Man who was Some One  
'Way back in the year Sixty-eight."

And I look, sour and old, at the dancers  
That swing to the strains of the band,  
And the ladies all give me the Lancers,  
No waltzes—I quite understand.  
For matrons, intent upon matching  
Their daughters with infinite push,  
Would scarce think him worthy the catching,  
The broken-down man from the bush.

New partners have come and new faces,  
And I, of the bygone brigade,  
Sharply feel that oblivion my place is—  
I must lie with the rest in the shade.  
And the youngsters, fresh-featured and pleasant,  
They live as we lived—fairly fast;  
But I doubt if the men of the present  
Are as good as the men of the past.

Of excitement and praise they are chary,  
 There is nothing much good upon earth;  
 Their watchword is *nil admirari*,  
 They are bored from the days of their birth.  
 Where the life that we led was a revel  
 They "wince and relent and refrain"—  
 I could show them the road—to the Devil,  
 Were I only a youngster again.

I could show them the road where the stumps are,  
 The pleasures that end in remorse,  
 And the game where the Devil's three trumps are  
 The woman, the card, and the horse.  
 Shall the blind lead the blind—shall the sower  
 Of wind reap the storm as of yore?  
 Though they get to their goal somewhat slower,  
 They march where we hurried before.

For the world never learns—just as we did  
 They gallantly go to their fate,  
 Unheeded all warnings, unheeded  
 The maxims of elders sedate.  
 As the husbandman, patiently toiling,  
 Draws a harvest each year from the soil,  
 So the fools grow afresh for the spoiling,  
 And a new crop of thieves for the spoil.

But a truce to this dull moralizing,  
 Let them drink while the drops are of gold.  
 I have tasted the dregs—'twere surprising  
 Were the new wine to me like the old;

And I weary for lack of employment  
In idleness day after day,  
For the key to the door of enjoyment  
Is Youth—and I've thrown it away.

## A BUNCH OF ROSES

Roses ruddy and roses white,  
What are the joys that my heart discloses?  
Sitting alone in the fading light  
Memories come to me here to-night  
With the wonderful scent of the big red roses.

Memories come as the daylight fades  
Down on the hearth where the firelight dozes;  
Flicker and flutter the lights and shades,  
And I see the face of a queen of maids  
Whose memory comes with the scent of roses.

Visions arise of a scene of mirth,  
And a ball-room belle who superbly poses—  
A queenly woman of queenly worth,  
And I am the happiest man on earth  
With a single flower from a bunch of roses.

Only her memory lives to-night—  
God in His wisdom her young life closes;  
Over her grave may the turf be light,  
Cover her coffin with roses white—  
She was always fond of the big white roses.

Such are the visions that fade away—  
 Man proposes and God disposes;  
 Look in the glass and I see to-day  
 Only an old man, worn and grey,  
 Bending his head to a bunch of roses.

### BLACK SWANS

As I lie at rest on a patch of clover  
 In the Western Park when the day is done,  
 I watch as the wild black swans fly over  
 With their phalanx turned to the sinking sun;  
 And I hear the clang of their leader crying  
 To a lagging mate in the rearward flying,  
 And they fade away in the darkness dying,  
 Where the stars are mustering one by one.

O ye wild black swans, 'twere a world of wonder  
 For a while to join in your westward flight,  
 With the stars above and the dim earth under,  
 Through the cooling air of the glorious night.  
 As we swept along on our pinions winging,  
 We should catch the chime of a church-bell ringing,  
 Or the distant note of a torrent singing,  
 Or the far-off flash of a station light.

From the northern lakes with the reeds and rushes,  
 Where the hills are clothed with a purple haze,  
 Where the bell-birds chime and the songs of thrushes  
 Make music sweet in the jungle maze,

They will hold their course to the westward ever,  
Till they reach the banks of the old grey river,  
Where the waters wash, and the reed-beds quiver  
In the burning heat of the summer days.

O ye strange wild birds, will ye bear a greeting  
To the folk that live in that western land?  
Then for every sweep of your pinions beating  
Ye shall bear a wish to the sunburnt band,  
To the stalwart men who are stoutly fighting  
With the heat and drought and the dust-storm  
smiting,  
Yet whose life somehow has a strange inviting,  
When once to the work they have put their hand.

Facing it yet! O my friend stout-hearted,  
What does it matter for rain or shine,  
For the hopes deferred and the gain departed?  
Nothing could conquer that heart of thine.  
And thy health and strength are beyond confessing  
As the only joys that are worth possessing.  
May the days to come be as rich in blessing  
As the days we spent in the auld lang syne.

I would fain go back to the old grey river,  
To the old bush days when our hearts were light;  
But, alas! those days they have fled for ever,  
They are like the swans that have swept from  
sight.

And I know full well that the strangers' faces  
Would meet us now in our dearest places;  
For our day is dead and has left no traces  
But the thoughts that live in my mind to-night.

There are folk long dead, and our hearts would  
sicken—

We should grieve for them with a bitter pain;  
If the past could live and the dead could quicken,  
We then might turn to that life again.

But on lonely nights we should hear them calling,  
We should hear their steps on the pathways falling,  
We should loathe the life with a hate appalling  
In our lonely rides by the ridge and plain.

In the silent park is a scent of clover,  
And the distant roar of the town is dead,  
And I hear once more, as the swans fly over,  
Their far-off clamour from overhead.  
They are flying west, by their instinct guided,  
And for man likewise is his fate decided,  
And griefs apportioned and joys divided  
By a mighty power with a purpose dread.

### THE ALL RIGHT UN

He came from "further out,"  
That land of heat and drought  
And dust and gravel.  
He got a touch of sun,  
And rested at the run  
Until his cure was done,  
And he could travel.

When spring had decked the plain,  
He flitted off again  
As fit the swallows.  
And from that western land,  
When many months were spanned,  
A letter came to hand,  
Which read as follows:

"Dear Sir, I take my pen  
In hopes that all your men  
And you are hearty.  
You think that I've forgot  
Your kindness, Mr. Scott;  
Oh, no, dear sir, I'm not  
That sort of party.

"You sometimes bet, I know.  
Well, now you'll have a show  
The 'books' to frighten.  
Up here at Wingadee  
Young Billy Fife and me  
We're training Strife, and he  
Is a all right un.

"Just now we're running byes,  
But, sir, first time he tries  
I'll send you word of.  
And running 'on the crook'  
Their measures we have took;  
It is the deadest hook  
You ever heard of.

"So when we lets him go,  
Why then I'll let you know,  
And you can have a show  
To put a mite on.  
Now, sir, my leave I'll take,  
Yours truly, William Blake.  
P.S.—Make no mistake,  
*He's a all right un.*"

By next week's *Riverine*  
I saw my friend had been  
A bit too cunning.  
I read: "The racehorse Strife  
And jockey William Fife  
Disqualified for life—  
Suspicious running."

But though they spoilt his game,  
I reckon all the same  
I fairly ought to claim  
My friend a white un.  
For though he wasn't straight,  
His deeds would indicate  
His heart at any rate  
Was "a all right un."

## THE BOSS OF THE *ADMIRAL LYNCH*

Did you ever hear tell of Chili? I was readin' the other day  
Of President Balmaceda and of how he was sent away.  
It seems that he didn't suit 'em—they thought that they'd like a change,  
So they started an insurrection and chased him across the range.  
They seem to be restless people—and, judging by what you hear,  
They raise up these revolutions 'bout two or three times a year;  
And the man that goes out of office, he goes for the boundary quick,  
For there isn't no vote by ballot—it's bullets that does the trick.  
And it ain't like a real battle, where the prisoners' lives are spared,  
And they fight till there's one side beaten and then there's a truce declared,  
And the man that has got the licking goes down like a blooming lord  
To hand in his resignation and give up his blooming sword,  
And the other man bows and takes it, and everything's all polite—  
This wasn't that sort of a picnic, this wasn't that sort of a fight.

For the pris'ners they took—they shot 'em, no odds  
    were they small or great;  
If they'd collared old Balmaceda, they reckoned to  
    shoot him straight.  
A lot of bloodthirsty devils they were—but there  
    ain't a doubt  
They must have been real plucked uns, the way  
    that they fought it out,  
And the king of 'em all, I reckon, the man that  
    could stand a pinch,  
Was the boss of a one-horse gunboat. They called  
    her the *Admiral Lynch*.

Well, he was for Balmaceda, and after the war was  
    done,  
And Balmaceda was beaten and his troops had been  
    forced to run,  
The other man fetched his army and proceeded to  
    do things brown.  
He marched 'em into the fortress and took com-  
    mand of the town,  
Cannon and guns and horses troopin' along the  
    road,  
Rumblin' over the bridges; and never a foeman  
    showed  
Till they came in sight of the harbour—and the  
    very first thing they see  
Was this mite of a one-horse gunboat a-lying against  
    the quay;  
And there as they watched they noticed a flutter of  
    crimson rag,  
And under their eyes he hoisted old Balmaceda's  
    flag.

Well, I tell you it fairly knocked 'em—it just took away their breath,  
For he must ha' known if they caught him, 'twas nothin' but sudden death.  
An' he'd got no fire in his furnace, no chance to put out to sea,  
So he stood by his gun and waited with his vessel against the quay.  
Well, they sent him a civil message to say that the war was done,  
And most of his side were corpses, and all that were left had run,  
And blood had been split sufficient; so they gave him a chance to decide  
If he'd haul down his bit of bunting and come on the winning side.  
He listened and heard their message, and answered them all polite  
That he was a Spanish hidalgo, and the men of his race *must* fight!  
A gunboat against an army, and with never a chance to run,  
And them with their hundred cannon and him with a single gun:  
The odds were a trifle heavy—but he wasn't the sort to flinch,  
So he opened fire on the army, did the boss of the *Admiral Lynch*.

They pounded his boat to pieces, they silenced his single gun,  
And captured the whole consignment, for none of 'em cared to run;

And it don't say whether they shot him—it don't even give his name—  
But whatever they did I'll wager that he went to his graveyard game.  
I tell you those old hidalgos, so stately and so polite,  
They turn out the real Maginnis when it comes to an uphill fight.  
There was General Alcantara, who died in the heaviest brunt,  
And General Alzereca was killed in the battle's front;  
But the king of 'em all, I reckon—the man that could stand a pinch—  
Was the man who attacked the army with the gun-boat *Admiral Lynch*.

#### A BUSHMAN'S SONG

I'm travellin' down the Castlereagh, and I'm a station-hand,  
I'm handy with the ropin' pole, I'm handy with the brand,  
And I can ride a rowdy colt, or swing the axe all day,  
But there's no demand for a station-hand along the Castlereagh.

So it's shift, boys, shift, for there isn't the slightest  
doubt  
That we've got to make a shift to the stations  
further out,  
With the pack-horse runnin' after, for he follows  
like a dog,  
We must strike across the country at the old jig-jog.

This old black horse I'm riding—if you'll notice  
what's his brand,  
He wears the crooked R, you see—none better in  
the land.  
He takes a lot of beatin', and the other day we  
tried,  
For a bit of a joke, with a racing bloke, for twenty  
pound a side.

It was shift, boys, shift, for there wasn't the  
 slightest doubt  
That I had to make him shift, for the money was  
nearly out,  
But he cantered home a winner, with the other one  
at the flog—  
He's a red-hot sort to pick up with his old jig-jog.

I asked a cove for shearin' once along the  
Marthaguy:  
"We shear non-union here," says he. "I call it  
scab," says I.  
I looked along the shearin' floor before I turned to  
go—  
There were eight or ten dashed Chinamen a-shearin'  
in a row.

It was shift, boys, shift, for there wasn't the slightest doubt  
It was time to make a shift with the leprosy about.  
So I saddled up my horses, and I whistled to my dog,  
And I left his scabby station at the old jig-jog.

I went to Illawarra, where my brother's got a farm;  
He has to ask his landlord's leave before he lifts his arm:  
The landlord owns the country-side—man, woman, dog, and cat,  
They haven't the cheek to dare to speak without they touch their hat.

It was shift, boys, shift, for there wasn't the slightest doubt  
Their little landlord god and I would soon have fallen out;  
Was I to touch my hat to him?—was I his bloomin' dog?  
So I makes for up the country at the old jig-jog.

But it's time that I was movin', I've a mighty way to go  
Till I drink artesian water from a thousand feet below;  
Till I meet the overlanders with the cattle comin' down—  
And I'll work a while till I make a pile, then have a spree in town.

So, it's shift, boys, shift, for there isn't the slightest  
doubt  
We've got to make a shift to the stations further  
out:  
The pack-horse runs behind us, for he follows like  
a dog,  
And we cross a lot of country at the old jig-jog.

## HOW GILBERT DIED

There's never a stone at the sleeper's head,  
There's never a fence beside,  
And the wandering stock on the grave may tread  
Unnoticed and undenied;  
But the smallest child on the Watershed  
Can tell you how Gilbert died.

For he rode at dusk with his comrade Dunn  
To the hut at the Stockman's Ford;  
In the waning light of the sinking sun  
They peered with a fierce accord.  
They were outlaws both—and on each man's head  
Was a thousand pounds reward.

They had taken toll of the country round,  
And the troopers came behind  
With a black who tracked like a human hound  
In the scrub and the ranges blind:  
He could run the trail where a white man's eye  
No sign of a track could find.

He had hunted them out of the One Tree Hill  
 And over the Old Man Plain,  
 But they wheeled their tracks with a wild beast's  
 skill,  
 And they made for the range again;  
 Then away to the hut where their grandsire dwelt  
 They rode with a loosened rein.

And their grandsire gave them a greeting bold:  
 "Come in and rest in peace,  
 No safer place does the country hold—  
 With the night pursuit must cease,  
 And we'll drink success to the roving boys,  
 And to hell with the black police."

But they went to death when they entered there  
 In the hut at the Stockman's Ford,  
 For their grandsire's words were as false as fair—  
 They were doomed to the hangman's cord.  
 He had sold them both to the black police  
 For the sake of the big reward.

In the depth of night there are forms that glide  
 As stealthy as serpents creep,  
 And around the hut where the outlaws hide  
 They plant in the shadows deep,  
 And they wait till the first faint flush of dawn  
 Shall waken their prey from sleep.

But Gilbert wakes while the night is dark—  
 A restless sleeper aye.  
 He has heard the sound of a sheep-dog's bark,  
 And his horse's warning neigh,

And he says to his mate, "There are hawks abroad,  
And it's time that we went away."

Their rifles stood at the stretcher head,  
Their bridles lay to hand;  
They wakened the old man out of his bed,  
When they heard the sharp command:  
"In the name of the Queen lay down your arms,  
Now, Dunn and Gilbert, stand!"

Then Gilbert reached for his rifle true  
That close at hand he kept;  
He pointed straight at the voice, and drew,  
But never a flash outleapt,  
For the water ran from the rifle breech—  
It was drenched while the outlaws slept.

Then he dropped the piece with a bitter oath,  
And he turned to his comrade Dunn:  
"We are sold," he said, "we are dead men both!—  
Still, there may be a chance for one;  
I'll stop and I'll fight with the pistol here,  
You take to your heels and run."

So Dunn crept out on his hands and knees  
In the dim, half-dawning light,  
And he made his way to a patch of trees,  
And was lost in the black of night;  
And the trackers hunted his tracks all day,  
But they never could trace his flight.

But Gilbert walked from the open door  
In a confident style and rash;  
He heard at his side the rifles roar,  
And he heard the bullets crash.  
But he laughed as he lifted his pistol-hand,  
And he fired at the rifle flash.

Then out of the shadows the troopers aimed  
At his voice and the pistol sound.  
With rifle flashes the darkness flamed—  
He staggered and spun around,  
And they riddled his body with rifle balls  
As it lay on the blood-soaked ground.

There's never a stone at the sleeper's head,  
There's never a fence beside,  
And the wandering stock on the grave may tread  
Unnoticed and undenied;  
But the smallest child on the Watershed  
Can tell you how Gilbert died.

### THE FLYING GANG

I served my time, in the days gone by,  
In the railway's clash and clang,  
And I worked my way to the end, and I  
Was the head of the "Flying Gang."  
'Twas a chosen band that was kept at hand  
In case of an urgent need;  
Was it south or north, we were started forth  
And away at our utmost speed.

If word reached town that a bridge was down,  
The imperious summons rang—  
“Come out with the pilot engine sharp,  
And away with the flying gang.”

Then a piercing scream and a rush of steam  
As the engine moved ahead;  
With measured beat by the slum and street  
Of the busy town we fled,  
By the uplands bright and the homesteads white,  
With the rush of the western gale—  
And the pilot swayed with the pace we made  
As she rocked on the ringing rail.  
And the country children clapped their hands  
As the engine's echoes rang,  
But their elders said: “There is work ahead  
When they send for the flying gang.”

Then across the miles of the saltbush plain  
That gleamed with the morning dew,  
Where the grasses waved like the ripening grain  
The pilot engine flew—  
A fiery rush in the open bush  
Where the grade marks seemed to fly,  
And the order sped on the wires ahead,  
The pilot *must* go by.  
The Governor's special must stand aside,  
And the fast express go hang;  
Let your orders be that the line is free  
For the boys of the flying gang.

## SHEARING AT CASTLEREAGH

The bell is set a-ringing, and the engine gives a  
toot,  
There's five-and-thirty shearers here a-shearing for  
the loot,  
So stir yourselves, you penners-up, and shove the  
sheep along—  
The musterers are fetching them a hundred thousand  
strong—  
And make your collie dogs speak up; what would  
the buyers say  
In London if the wool was late this year from  
Castlereagh?

The man that "rung" the Tubbo shed is not the  
ringer here,  
That stripling from the Cooma-side can teach him  
how to shear.  
They trim away the ragged locks, and rip the cutter  
goes,  
And leaves a track of snowy fleece from brisket  
to the nose;  
It's lovely how they peel it off with never stop nor  
stay,  
They're racing for the ringer's place this year at  
Castlereagh.

The man that keeps the cutters sharp is growling  
in his cage,  
He's always in a hurry and he's always in a rage—

"You clumsy-fisted mutton-heads, you'd turn a fellow sick,  
You pass yourselves as shearers, you were born to swing a pick.  
Another broken cutter here, that's two you've broke to-day,  
It's awful how such crawlers come to shear at Castlereagh."

The youngsters picking up the fleece enjoy the merry din,  
They throw the classer up the fleece, he throws it to the bin;  
The pressers standing by the rack are waiting for the wool,  
There's room for just a couple more, the press is nearly full;  
Now jump upon the lever, lads, and heave and heave away,  
Another bale of golden fleece is branded "Castle-reagh."

## THE WIND'S MESSAGE

There came a whisper down the Bland between the dawn and dark,  
Above the tossing of the pines, above the river's flow;  
It stirred the boughs of giant gums and stalwart ironbark;  
It drifted where the wild ducks played amid the swamps below;

It brought a breath of mountain air from off the  
hills of pine,  
A scent of eucalyptus trees in honey-laden bloom;  
And drifting, drifting far away along the southern  
line  
It caught from leaf and grass and fern a subtle  
strange perfume.

It reached the toiling city folk, but few there were  
that heard—  
The rattle of their busy life had choked the whisper  
down;  
And some but caught a fresh-blown breeze with  
scent of pine that stirred  
A thought of blue hills far away beyond the smoky  
town;  
And others heard the whisper pass, but could not  
understand  
The magic of the breeze's breath that set their  
hearts aglow,  
Nor how the roving wind could bring across the  
Overland  
A sound of voices silent now and songs of long ago.

But some that heard the whisper clear were filled  
with vague unrest;  
The breeze had brought its message home, they  
could not fixed abide;  
Their fancies wandered all the day towards the  
blue hills' breast,  
Towards the sunny slopes that lie along the river-  
side.

The mighty rolling western plains are very fair to see,  
Where waving to the passing breeze the silver myalls stand,  
But fairer are the giant hills, all rugged though they be,  
From which the two great rivers rise that run along the Bland.

Oh, rocky range, and rugged spur, and river running clear  
That swings around the sudden bends with swirl of snow-white foam,  
Though we, your sons, are far away, we sometimes seem to hear  
The message that the breezes bring to call the wanderers home.  
The mountain peaks are white with snow that feeds a thousand rills,  
Along the river-banks the maize grows tall on virgin land,  
And we shall live to see once more those sunny southern hills,  
And strike once more the bridle-track that leads along the Bland.

## JOHNSON'S ANTIDOTE

Down along the Snakebite River, where the overlanders camp,  
Where the serpents are in millions, all of the most deadly stamp;

Where the station-cook in terror, nearly every time  
he bakes,  
Mixes up among the doughboys half a dozen poison-  
snakes:  
Where the wily free-selector walks in armour-plated  
pants,  
And defies the stings of scorpions, and the bites of  
bull-dog ants:  
Where the adder and the viper tear each other by  
the throat—  
There it was that William Johnson sought his  
snakebite antidote.

Johnson was a free-selector, and his brain went  
rather queer,  
For the constant sight of serpents filled him with  
a deadly fear;  
So he tramped his free-selection, morning, after-  
noon, and night,  
Seeking for some great specific that would cure the  
serpent's bite.  
Till King Billy, of the Mooki, chieftain of the flour-  
bag head,  
Told him, "Spos'n snake bite pfeller, pfeller mostly  
drop down dead;  
Spos'n snake bite old goanna, then you watch a  
while you see  
Old goanna cure himself with eating little pfeller  
tree."  
"That's the cure," said William Johnson, "point  
me out this plant sublime,"  
But King Billy, feeling lazy, said he'd go another  
time.

Thus it came to pass that Johnson, having got the tale by rote,  
Followed every stray goanna seeking for the antidote

Loafing once beside the river, while he thought his heart would break,  
There he saw a big goanna fighting with a tiger-snake.  
In and out they rolled and wriggled, bit each other, heart and soul,  
Till the valiant old goanna swallowed his opponent whole.  
Breathless, Johnson sat and watched him, saw him struggle up the bank,  
Saw him nibbling at the branches of some bushes, green and rank;  
Saw him, happy and contented, lick his lips, as off he crept,  
While the bulging of his stomach showed where his opponent slept.  
Then a cheer of exultation burst aloud from Johnson's throat;  
"Luck at last," said he, "I've struck it! 'tis the famous antidote.

"Here it is, the Grand Elixir, greatest blessing ever known—  
Twenty thousand men in India die each year of snakes alone;

Think of all the foreign nations, negro, chow, and  
blackamoor,  
Saved from sudden expiration by my wondrous  
snakebite cure.  
It will bring me fame and fortune! In the happy  
days to be  
Men of every clime and nation will be round to gaze  
on me—  
Scientific men in thousands, men of mark and men  
of note,  
Rushing down the Mooki River, after Johnson's  
antidote.  
It will cure *delirium tremens* when the patient's  
eyeballs stare  
At imaginary spiders, snakes which really are not  
there.  
When he thinks he sees them wriggle, when he  
thinks he sees them bloat,  
It will cure him just to think of Johnson's Snake-  
bite Antidote."

Then he rushed to the museum, found a scientific  
man—  
"Trot me out a deadly serpent, just the deadliest  
you can;  
I intend to let him bite me, all the risk I will en-  
dure,  
Just to prove the sterling value of my wondrous  
snakebite cure.  
Even though an adder bit me, back to life again  
I'd float;  
Snakes are out of date, I tell you, since I've found  
the antidote."

Said the scientific person, "If you really want to die,  
Go ahead—but, if you're doubtful, let your sheep-dog have a try.  
Get a pair of dogs and try it, let the snake give both a nip;  
Give your dog the snakebite mixture, let the other fellow rip;  
If he dies and yours survives him, then it proves the thing is good.  
Will you fetch your dog and try it?" Johnson rather thought he would.  
So he went and fetched his canine, hauled him forward by the throat.  
"Stump, old man," says he, "we'll show them we've the genwine antidote."

Both the dogs were duly loaded with the poison-gland's contents;  
Johnson gave his dog the mixture, then sat down to wait events.  
"Mark," he said, "in twenty minutes Stump'll be a-rushing round,  
While the other wretched creature lies a corpse upon the ground."  
But, alas for William Johnson! ere they'd watched a half-hour's spell  
Stumpy was as dead as mutton, t'other dog was live and well.  
And the scientific person hurried off with utmost speed,  
Tested Johnson's drug and found it was a deadly poison-weed;

Half a tumbler killed an emu, half a spoonful killed  
 a goat—  
 All the snakes on earth were harmless to that awful  
 antidote.

Down along the Mooki River, on the overlanders'  
 camp,  
 Where the serpents are in millions, all of the most  
 deadly stamp,  
 Wanders, daily, William Johnson, down among  
 those poisonous hordes,  
 Shooting every stray goanna, calls them "black  
 and yaller frauds."  
 And King Billy, of the Mooki, cadging for the cast-  
 off coat,  
 Somehow seems to dodge the subject of the snake-  
 bite antidote.

## AMBITION AND ART

### *Ambition*

I am the maid of the lustrous eyes  
 Of great fruition,  
 Whom the sons of men that are over-wise  
 Have called Ambition.

And the world's success is the only goal  
 I have within me;  
 The meanest man with the smallest soul  
 May woo and win me.

For the lust of power and the pride of place  
To all I proffer.

Wilt thou take thy part in the crowded race  
For what I offer?

The choice is thine, and the world is wide—  
Thy path is lonely.

I may not lead and I may not guide—  
I urge thee only.

I am just a whip and a spur that smites  
To fierce endeavour.

In the restless days and the sleepless nights  
I urge thee ever.

Thou shalt wake from sleep with a startled cry,  
In fright upleaping

At a rival's step as it passes by  
Whilst thou art sleeping.

Honour and truth shall be overthrown  
In fierce desire;

Thou shalt use thy friend as a stepping-stone  
To mount thee higher.

When the curtain falls on the sordid strife  
That seemed so splendid,

Thou shalt look with pain on the wasted life  
That thou hast ended.

Thou hast sold thy life for a guerdon small  
In fitful flashes;

There has been reward—but the end of all  
Is dust and ashes.

For the night has come and it brings to naught  
Thy projects cherished,  
And thine epitaph shall in brass be wrought—  
"He lived, and perished."

*Art*

I wait for thee at the outer gate,  
My love, mine only;  
Wherefore tarriest thou so late  
While I am lonely?

Thou shalt seek my side with a footstep swift;  
In thee implanted  
Is the love of Art and the greatest gift  
That God has granted.

And the world's concerns with its rights and wrongs  
Shall seem but small things—  
Poet or painter, or singer of songs,  
Thine art is all things.

For the wine of life is a woman's love  
To keep beside thee;  
But the love of Art is a thing above—  
A star to guide thee.

As the years go by with thy love of Art  
All undiminished,  
Thou shalt end thy days with a quiet heart—  
Thy work is finished.

So the painter fashions a picture strong  
That fadeth never,  
And the singer singeth a wondrous song  
That lives for ever.

## IN DEFENCE OF THE BUSH

So you're back from up the country, Mister Lawson,  
where you went,  
And you're cursing all the business in a bitter dis-  
content;  
Well, we grieve to disappoint you, and it makes us  
sad to hear  
That it wasn't cool and shady—and there wasn't  
whips of beer,  
And the looney bullock snorted when you first came  
into view—  
Well, you know it's not so often that he sees a swell  
like you;  
And the roads were hot and dusty, and the plains  
were burnt and brown,  
And no doubt you're better suited drinking lemon-  
squash in town.  
Yet, perchance, if you should journey down the  
very track you went  
In a month or two at furthest, you would wonder  
what it meant;  
Where the sunbaked earth was gasping like a  
creature in its pain  
You would find the grasses waving like a field of  
summer grain,

And the miles of thirsty gutters, blocked with sand  
and choked with mud,  
You would find them mighty rivers with a turbid,  
sweeping flood.  
For the rain and drought and sunshine make no  
changes in the street,  
In the sullen line of buildings and the ceaseless  
tramp of feet;  
But the bush has moods and changes, as the seasons  
rise and fall,  
And the men who know the bush-land—they are  
loyal through it all.

But you found the bush was dismal and a land of  
no delight—  
Did you chance to hear a chorus in the shearers'  
huts at night?  
Did they "rise up, William Riley" by the camp-  
fire's cheery blaze?  
Did they rise him as we rose him in the good old  
droving days?  
And the women of the homesteads and the men you  
chanced to meet—  
Were their faces sour and saddened like the "faces  
in the street?"  
And the "shy selector children"—were they better  
now or worse  
Than the little city urchins who would greet you  
with a curse?

Is not such a life much better than the squalid  
street and square  
Where the fallen women flaunt it in the fierce  
electric glare,  
Where the sempstress plies her needle till her eyes  
are sore and red  
In a filthy, dirty attic toiling on for daily bread?  
Did you hear no sweeter voices in the music of the  
bush  
Than the roar of trams and buses, and the war-  
whoop of "the push?"  
Did the magpies rouse your slumbers with their  
carol sweet and strange?  
Did you hear the silver chiming of the bell-birds  
on the range?  
But, perchance, the wild birds' music by your  
senses was despised,  
For you say you'll stay in townships till the bush is  
civilized.  
Would you make it a tea-garden, and on Sundays  
have a band  
Where the "blokes" might take their "donahs,"  
with a "public" close at hand?  
You had better stick to Sydney and make merry  
with the "push,"  
For the bush will never suit you, and you'll never  
suit the bush.

## LAST WEEK

Oh, the new-chum went to the backblock run,  
But he should have gone there last week.

He tramped ten miles with a loaded gun,  
But of turkey or duck saw never a one,  
For he should have been there last week,

They said,

There were flocks of 'em there last week.

He wended his way to a waterfall,  
And he should have gone there last week.

He carried a camera, legs and all,  
But the day was hot and the stream was small,  
For he should have gone there last week,

They said,

They drowned a man there last week.

He went for a drive, and he made a start,  
Which should have been made last week,  
For the old horse died of a broken heart;  
So he footed it home and he dragged the cart—  
But the horse was all right last week,

They said,

He trotted a match last week.

So he asked the bushies who came from afar  
To visit the town last week

If they'd dine with him, and they said "Hurrah!"  
But there wasn't a drop in the whisky jar—  
You should have been here last week,

He said,

I drank it all up last week!

## THOSE NAMES

The shearers sat in the firelight, hearty and hale  
and strong,  
After the hard day's shearing, passing the joke  
along:  
The "ringer" that shore a hundred, as they never  
were shorn before,  
And the novice who, toiling bravely, had tommy-  
hawked half a score,  
The tarboy, the cook and the slushy, the sweeper  
that swept the board,  
The picker-up, and the penner, with the rest of the  
shearing horde.

There were men from the inland stations where  
the skies like a furnace glow,  
And men from the Snowy River, the land of the  
frozen snow;  
There were swarthy Queensland drovers who  
reckoned all land by miles,  
And farmers' sons from the Murray, where many a  
vineyard smiles.  
They started at telling stories when they wearied  
of cards and games,  
And to give these stories a flavour they threw in  
some local names,  
Then a man from the bleak Monaro, away on the  
tableland,  
He fixed his eyes on the ceiling, and he started to  
play his hand.

He told them of Adjintoothbong, where the pine-clad mountains freeze,  
And the weight of the snow in summer breaks branches off the trees,  
And, as he warmed to the business, he let them have it strong—  
Nimitybelle, Conargo, Wheeo, Bongongolong;  
He lingered over them fondly, because they recalled to mind  
A thought of the old bush homestead, and the girl that he left behind.  
Then the shearers all sat silent till a man in the corner rose;  
Said he “I’ve travelled a-plenty but never heard names like those.  
Out in the western districts, out on the Castlereagh  
Most of the names are easy—short for a man to say.  
You’ve heard of Mungrybambone and the Gundabluey pine,  
Quobbotha, Girilambone, and Terramungamine,  
Quambone, Eunonyhareenyha, Wee Waa, and Buntijo—”  
But the rest of the shearers stopped him: “For the sake of your jaw, go slow,  
If you reckon those names are short ones out where such names prevail,  
Just try and remember some long ones before you begin the tale.”  
And the man from the western district, though never a word he said,  
Just winked with his dexter eyelid, and then he retired to bed.

## A BUSH CHRISTENING

On the outer Barcoo where the churches are few,  
And men of religion are scanty,  
On a road never cross'd 'cept by folk that are lost  
One Michael Magee had a shanty.

Now this Mike was the dad of a ten-year-old lad,  
Plump, healthy, and stoutly conditioned;  
He was strong as the best, but poor Mike had no  
rest  
For the youngster had never been christened.

And his wife used to cry, "If the darlin' should die  
Saint Peter would not recognize him."  
But by luck he survived till a preacher arrived,  
Who agreed straightaway to baptize him.

Now the artful young rogue, while they held their  
collogue,  
With his ear to the keyhole was listenin';  
And he muttered in fright, while his features turned  
white,  
"What the devil and all is this christenin'?"

He was none of your dolts—he had seen them brand  
colts,  
And it seemed to his small understanding,  
If the man in the frock made him one of the flock,  
It must mean something very like branding.

So away with a rush he set off for the bush,  
 While the tears in his eyelids they glistened—  
 " 'Tis outrageous," says he, "to brand youngsters  
 like me;  
 I'll be dashed if I'll stop to be christened!"

Like a young native dog he ran into a log,  
 And his father with language uncivil,  
 Never heeding the "praste," cried aloud in his  
 haste  
 "Come out and be christened, you devil!"

But he lay there as snug as a bug in a rug,  
 And his parents in vain might reprove him,  
 Till his reverence spoke (he was fond of a joke)  
 "I've a notion," says he, "that'll move him.

"Poke a stick up the log, give the spaldeen a prog;  
 Poke him aisy—don't hurt him or maim him;  
 'Tis not long that he'll stand, I've the water at hand,  
 As he rushes out this end I'll name him.

"Here he comes, and for shame! ye've forgotten  
 the name—  
 Is it Patsy or Michael or Dinnis?"  
 Here the youngster ran out, and the priest gave a  
 shout—  
 "Take your chance, anyhow, wid 'Maginnis!'"

As the howling young cub ran away to the scrub  
 Where he knew that pursuit would be risky,  
 The priest, as he fled, flung a flask at his head  
 That was labelled "Maginnis's Whisky!"

Now Maginnis Magee has been made a J.P.,  
And the one thing he hates more than sin is  
To be asked by the folk, who have heard of the joke,  
How he came to be christened Maginnis!

## HOW THE FAVOURITE BEAT US

"Ay," said the boozer, "I tell you it's true, sir,  
I once was a punter with plenty of pelf,  
But gone is my glory; I'll tell you the story  
How I stiffened my horse and got stiffened myself.

"'Twas a mare called The Cracker, I came down  
to back her,  
But found she was favourite all of a rush;  
The folk just did pour on to lay six to four on,  
And several bookies were killed in the crush.

"It seems old Tomato was stiff, though a starter;  
They reckoned him fit for the Caulfield to keep.  
The Bloke and The Donah were scratched by their  
owner—  
He only was offered three-fourths of the sweep.

"We knew Salamander was slow as a gander,  
The mare could have beat him the length of the  
straight,  
And old Manumission was out of condition,  
And most of the others were running off weight.

"No doubt some one 'blew it,' for everyone knew it;  
The bets were all gone, and I muttered in spite  
'If I can't get a copper, by Jingo, I'll stop her!  
Let the public fall in, it will serve the brutes  
right.'

"I said to the jockey, 'Now listen, my cocky,  
You watch as you're cantering down by the stand;  
I'll wait where that toff is and give you the office,  
You're only to win if I lift up my hand.'

"I then tried to back her—What price is The  
Cracker?

'Our books are all full, sir,' each bookie did swear;  
My mind, then, I made up, my fortune I played up,  
I bet every shilling against my own mare.

"I strolled to the gateway; the mare in the straight-  
way

Was shifting and dancing, and pawing the ground;  
The boy saw me enter and wheeled for his canter,  
When a darned great mosquito came buzzing  
around.

"They breed 'em at Hexham, it's risky to vex 'em,  
They suck a man dry at a sitting, no doubt;  
But just as the mare passed, he fluttered my hair  
past—

I lifted my hand, and I flattened him out.

"I was stunned when they started; the mare simply  
darted

Away to the front when the flag was let fall,

For none there could match her, and none tried to  
catch her—

She finished a furlong in front of them all.

“You bet that I went for the boy, whom I sent for  
The moment he weighed and came out of the  
stand—

‘Who paid you to win it? Come, own up this  
minute.’

‘Lord love yer,’ said he ‘why, you lifted your hand.’

“ ’Twas true, by St. Peter; that cursed muskeeter  
Had broke me so broke that I hadn’t a brown;  
And you’ll find the best course is when dealing with  
horses

To win when you’re able, and *keep your hands down.*”

### THE GREAT CALAMITY

MacFierce’un came to Whiskeyhurst  
When summer days were hot,  
And bided there wi’ Jock MacThirst,  
A brawny brother Scot.

Good Faith! They made the whisky fly  
Like Highland chieftains true,  
And when they’d drunk the beaker dry  
They sang “We are nae fou!  
There’s nae folk like oor ain folk,  
Sae gallant and sae true.”  
They sang the only Scottish joke  
Which is “We are nae fou.”

Said bold MacThirst, "Let Saxons jaw  
 Aboot their great concerns,  
 But Bonnie Scotland beats them a',  
 The Land o' Cakes and Burns,  
 The land of pairtridge, deer, and grouse;  
 Fill up your glass, I beg,  
 There's muckle whuskey i' the house,  
 Forbye what's in the keg."  
 And here a hearty laugh he laughed,  
 "Just come wi' me, I beg."  
 MacFierce'un saw with pleasure daft  
 A fifty-gallon keg.

"Losh, man, that's graund," MacFierce'un cried,  
 "Saw ever man the like,  
 Noo, wi' the daylicht, I maun ride  
 To meet a Southron tyke,  
 But I'll be back ere summer's gone,  
 So bide for me, I beg;  
 We'll mak' a graund assault upon  
 Yon deevil of a keg."

MacFierce'un rode to Whiskeyhurst  
 When summer days were gone,  
 And there he met with Jock MacThirst  
 Was greetin' all alone.  
 "MacThirst, what gars ye look sae blank?  
 Hae all your wuts gane daft?  
 Has that accursed Southron bank  
 Called up your overdraft?

Is all your grass burnt up wi' drouth?  
Is wool and hides gane flat?"  
MacThirst replied, "Guid friend, in truth,  
'Tis muckle waur than that."

"Has sair misfortune cursed your life  
That you should weep sae free?  
Is harm upon your bonny wife,  
The children at your knee?  
Is scaith upon your house and hame?"  
MacThirst upraised his head:  
"My bairns hae done the deed of shame—  
'Twere better they were dead.  
To think my bonnie infant son  
Should do the deed o' guilt—  
*He let the whuskey spigot run,*  
*And a' the whuskey's spilt!"*

Upon them both these words did bring  
A solemn silence deep;  
Good faith, it is a fearsome thing  
To see two strong men weep.

## COME-BY-CHANCE

As I pondered very weary o'er a volume long and dreary—  
For the plot was void of interest; 'twas the Postal Guide, in fact—  
There I learnt the true location, distance, size, and population  
Of each township, town, and village in the radius of the Act.

And I learnt that Puckawidgee stands beside the Murrumbidgee,  
And that Booleroi and Bumble get their letters twice a year,  
Also that the post inspector, when he visited Collector,  
Closed the office up instanter, and re-opened Dungleair.

But my languid mood forsook me, when I found a name that took me;  
Quite by chance I came across it—"Come-by-Chance" was what I read;  
No location was assigned it, not a thing to help one find it,  
Just an N which stood for northward, and the rest was all unsaid.

I shall leave my home, and forthward wander  
stoutly to the northward  
Till I come by chance across it, and I'll straight-  
way settle down;  
For there can't be any hurry, nor the slightest  
cause for worry  
Where the telegraph don't reach you nor the rail-  
ways run to town.

And one's letters and exchanges come by chance  
across the ranges,  
Where a wiry young Australian leads a pack-horse  
once a week,  
And the good news grows by keeping, and you're  
spared the pain of weeping  
Over bad news when the mailman drops the letters  
in the creek.

But I fear, and more's the pity, that there's really  
no such city,  
For there's not a man can find it of the shrewdest  
folk I know;  
"Come-by-Chance," be sure it never means a land  
of fierce endeavour—  
It is just the careless country where the dreamers  
only go.

Though we work and toil and hustle in our life of  
haste and bustle,  
All that makes our life worth living comes un-  
striven for and free;

Man may weary and importune, but the fickle  
goddess Fortune  
Deals him out his pain or pleasure, careless what  
his worth may be.

All the happy times entrancing, days of sport and  
nights of dancing,  
Moonlit rides and stolen kisses, pouting lips and  
loving glance:  
When you think of these be certain you have looked  
behind the curtain,  
You have had the luck to linger just a while in  
"Come-by-Chance."

#### UNDER THE SHADOW OF KILEY'S HILL

This is the place where they all were bred;  
Some of the rafters are standing still;  
Now they are scattered and lost and dead,  
Every one from the old nest fled,  
Out of the shadow of Kiley's Hill.

Better it is that they ne'er came back—  
Changes and chances are quickly rung;  
Now the old homestead is gone to rack,  
Green is the grass on the well-worn track  
Down by the gate where the roses clung.

Gone is the garden they kept with care;  
Left to decay at its own sweet will,  
Fruit-trees and flower-beds eaten bare,  
Cattle and sheep where the roses were,  
Under the shadow of Kiley's Hill.

Where are the children that strove and grew  
In the old homestead in days gone by?  
One is away on the far Barcoo  
Watching his cattle the long year through,  
Watching them starve in the droughts and die.

One, in the town where all cares are rife,  
Weary with troubles that cramp and kill,  
Fain would be done with the restless strife,  
Fain would go back to the old bush life,  
Back to the shadow of Kiley's Hill.

One is away on the roving quest,  
Seeking his share of the golden spoil;  
Out in the wastes of the trackless west,  
Wandering ever he gives the best  
Of his years and strength to the hopeless toil.

What of the parents? That unkept mound  
Shows where they slumber united still;  
Rough is their grave, but they sleep as sound  
Out on the range as in holy ground,  
Under the shadow of Kiley's Hill.

## JIM CAREW

Born of a thoroughbred English race,  
 Well proportioned and closely knit,  
 Neat, slim figure and handsome face,  
 Always ready and always fit,  
 Hardy and wiry of limb and thew,  
 That was the ne'er-do-well Jim Carew.

One of the sons of the good old land—  
 Many a year since his like was known;  
 Never a game but he took command,  
 Never a sport but he held his own;  
 Gained at his college a triple blue—  
 Good as they make them was Jim Carew.

Came to grief—was it card or horse?  
 Nobody asked and nobody cared;  
 Ship him away to the bush of course,  
 Ne'er-do-well fellows are easily spared;  
 Only of women a sorrowing few  
 Wept at parting from Jim Carew.

Gentleman Jim on the cattle-camp,  
 Sitting his horse with an easy grace;  
 But the reckless living has left its stamp  
 In the deep drawn lines of that handsome  
 face,  
 And a harder look in those eyes of blue:  
 Prompt at a quarrel is Jim Carew.

Billy the Lasher was out for gore—  
Twelve-stone navvy with chest of hair—  
When he opened out with a hungry roar  
On a ten-stone man, it was hardly fair;  
But his wife was wise if his face she knew  
By the time you were done with him, Jim Carew.

Gentleman Jim in the stockmen's hut  
Works with them, toils with them, side by side;  
As to his past—well, his lips are shut.  
“Gentleman once,” say his mates with pride;  
And the wildest Cornstalk can ne'er outdo  
In feats of recklessness Jim Carew.

What should he live for? A dull despair!  
Drink is his master and drags him down,  
Water of Lethe that drowns all care.  
Gentleman Jim has a lot to drown,  
And he reigns as king with a drunken crew,  
Sinking to misery, Jim Carew.

Such is the end of the ne'er-do-well—  
Jimmy the Boozer, all down at heel;  
But he straightens up when he's asked to tell  
His name and race, and a flash of steel  
Still lightens up in those eyes of blue—  
“I am, or—no, I *was*—Jim Carew.”

## THE SWAGMAN'S REST

We buried old Bob where the bloodwoods wave  
At the foot of the Eaglehawk;  
We fashioned a cross on the old man's grave  
For fear that his ghost might walk;  
We carved his name on a bloodwood tree  
With the date of his sad decease,  
And in place of "Died from effects of spree"  
We wrote "May he rest in peace."

For Bob was known on the Overland,  
A regular old bush wag,  
Tramping along in the dust and sand,  
Humping his well-worn swag.  
He would camp for days in the river-bed,  
And loiter and "fish for whales."  
"I'm into the swagman's yard," he said,  
"And I never shall find the rails."

But he found the rails on that summer night  
For a better place—or worse,  
As we watched by turns in the flickering light  
With an old black gin for nurse.  
The breeze came in with the scent of pine,  
The river sounded clear,  
When a change came on, and we saw the sign  
That told us the end was near.

He spoke in a cultured voice and low—  
“I fancy they've 'sent the route';  
I once was an army man, you know,  
Though now I'm a drunken brute;  
But bury me out where the bloodwoods wave,  
And, if ever you're fairly stuck,  
Just take and shovel me out of the grave  
And, maybe, I'll bring you luck.

“For I've always heard—” here his voice grew weak,  
His strength was wellnigh sped,  
He gasped and struggled and tried to speak,  
Then fell in a moment—dead.  
Thus ended a wasted life and hard,  
Of energies misapplied—  
Old Bob was out of the “swagman's yard”  
And over the Great Divide.

The drought came down on the field and flock,  
And never a raindrop fell,  
Though the tortured moans of the starving stock  
Might soften a fiend from hell.  
And we thought of the hint that the swagman gave  
When he went to the Great Unseen—  
We shovelled the skeleton out of the grave  
To see what his hint might mean.

We dug where the cross and the grave posts were,  
We shovelled away the mould,  
When sudden a vein of quartz lay bare  
All gleaming with yellow gold.

'Twas a reef with never a fault nor baulk  
 That ran from the range's crest,  
 And the richest mine on the Eaglehawk  
 Is known as "The Swagman's Rest."

### DAYLIGHT IS DYING

The daylight is dying  
 Away in the west,  
 The wild birds are flying  
 In silence to rest;  
 In leafage and frondage  
 Where shadows are deep,  
 They pass to its bondage—  
 The kingdom of sleep.

And watched in their sleeping  
 By stars in the height,  
 They rest in your keeping,  
 O wonderful night.  
 When night doth her glories  
 Of starshine unfold,  
 'Tis then that the stories  
 Of bush-land are told.

Unnumbered I hold them  
 In memories bright,  
 But who could unfold them,  
 Or read them aright?

Beyond all denials  
The stars in their glories,  
The breeze in the myalls,  
Are part of these stories.

The waving of grasses,  
The song of the river  
That sings as it passes  
For ever and ever,  
The hobble-chains' rattle,  
The calling of birds,  
The lowing of cattle  
Must blend with the words.

Without these, indeed, you  
Would find it ere long,  
As though I should read you  
The words of a song  
That lamely would linger  
When lacking the rune,  
The voice of a singer,  
The lilt of the tune.

But, as one half-hearing  
An old-time refrain,  
With memory clearing,  
Recalls it again,  
These tales roughly wrought of  
The Bush and its ways,  
May call back a thought of  
The wandering days;

And, blending with each  
In the memories that throng  
There haply shall reach  
You some echo of song.

II

*RIO GRANDE AND OTHER VERSES*



## RIO GRANDE

Now this was what Macpherson told  
While waiting in the stand;  
A reckless rider, over-bold,  
The only man with hands to hold  
The rushing Rio Grande.

He said, "This day I bid good-bye  
To bit and bridle rein,  
To ditches deep and fences high,  
For I have dreamed a dream, and I  
Shall never ride again.

"I dreamt last night I rode this race  
That I to-day must ride,  
And cantering down to take my place  
I saw full many an old friend's face  
Come stealing to my side.

"Dead men on horses long since dead,  
They clustered on the track;  
The champions of the days long fled,  
They moved around with noiseless tread—  
Bay, chestnut, brown, and black.

"And one man on a big grey steed  
Rode up and waved his hand;  
Said he, 'We help a friend in need,  
And we have come to give a lead  
To you and Rio Grande.

“ ‘For you must give the field the slip;  
So never draw the rein,  
But keep him moving with the whip,  
And, if he falter, set your lip  
And rouse him up again.

“ ‘But when you reach the big stone wall  
Put down your bridle-hand  
And let him sail—he cannot fall,  
But don’t you interfere at all;  
You trust old Rio Grande.’

“We started, and in front we showed,  
The big horse running free:  
Right fearlessly and game he strode,  
And by my side those dead men rode  
Whom no one else could see.

“As silently as flies a bird,  
They rode on either hand;  
At every fence I plainly heard  
The phantom leader give the word,  
‘Make room for Rio Grande!’

“I spurred him on to get the lead,  
I chanced full many a fall;  
But swifter still each phantom steed  
Kept with me, and at racing speed  
We reached the big stone wall.

“And there the phantoms on each side  
Drew in and blocked his leap;  
‘Make room! make room!’ I loudly cried,  
But right in front they seemed to ride—  
I cursed them in my sleep.

"He never flinched, he faced it game,  
He struck it with his chest,  
And every stone burst out in flame--  
And Rio Grande and I became  
Phantoms among the rest.

"And then I woke, and for a space  
All nerveless did I seem;  
For I have ridden many a race  
But never one at such a pace  
As in that fearful dream.

"And I am sure as man can be  
That out upon the track  
Those phantoms that men cannot see  
Are waiting now to ride with me;  
And I shall not come back.

"For I must ride the dead men's race,  
And follow their command;  
'Twere worse than death, the foul disgrace  
If I should fear to take my place  
To-day on Rio Grande."

He mounted, and a jest he threw,  
With never sign of gloom;  
But all who heard the story knew  
That Jack Macpherson, brave and true,  
Was going to his doom.

They started, and the big black steed  
Came flashing past the stand;  
All single-handed in the lead  
He strode along at racing speed,  
The mighty Rio Grande.

But on his ribs the whalebone stung—  
 A madness, sure, it seemed—  
 And soon it rose on every tongue  
 That Jack Macpherson rode among  
 The creatures he had dreamed.

He looked to left, and looked to right,  
 As though men rode beside;  
 And Rio Grande, with foam-flecks white,  
 Raced at his jumps in headlong flight  
 And cleared them in his stride.

But when they reached the big stone wall,  
 Down went the bridle-hand,  
 And loud we heard Macpherson call  
 "Make room, or half the field will fall!  
 Make room for Rio Grande!"

"He's down! he's down!" And horse and man  
 Lay quiet side by side!  
 No need the pallid face to scan,  
 We knew with Rio Grande he ran  
 The race the dead men ride.

#### WITH FRENCH TO KIMBERLEY

The Boers were down on Kimberley with seige and  
 Maxim gun;  
 The Boers were down on Kimberley, their numbers  
 ten to one!

Faint were the hopes the British had to make the  
struggle good—  
Defenceless in an open plain the Diamond City  
stood.  
They built them forts with bags of sand, they fought  
from roof and wall,  
They flashed a message to the south, “Help! or the  
town must fall!”  
Then down our ranks the order ran to march at  
dawn of day,  
And French was off to Kimberley to drive the Boers  
away.

He made no march along the line; he made no front  
attack  
Upon those Magersfontein heights that held the  
Seaforths back;  
But eastward over pathless plains, by open veldt and  
vley,  
Across the front of Cronje’s force his troopers held  
their way.  
The springbuck, feeding on the flats where Modder  
River runs,  
Were startled by his horses’ hoofs, the rumble of his  
guns.  
The Dutchman’s spies that watched his march from  
every rocky wall  
Rode back in haste: “He marches East! He threatens  
Jacobsdal!”  
Then north he wheeled as wheels the hawk, and  
showed to their dismay

That French was off to Kimberley to drive the Boers away.

His column was five thousand strong—all mounted men—and guns:

There met, beneath the world-wide flag, the world-wide Empire's sons;

They came to prove to all the earth that kinship conquers space,

And those who fight the British Isles must fight the British race!

From far New Zealand's flax and fern, from cold Canadian snows,

From Queensland plains, where hot as fire the summer sunshine glows—

And in the front the Lancers rode that New South Wales had sent:

With easy stride across the plain their long, lean Walers went.

Unknown, untried, those squadrons were, but proudly out they drew

Beside the English regiments that fought at Waterloo.

From every coast, from every clime, they met in proud array

To go with French to Kimberley to drive the Boers away.

He crossed the Reit and fought his way towards the Modder bank.

The foeman closed behind his march, and hung upon the flank.

The long, dry grass was all ablaze (and fierce the veldt fire runs);  
He fought them through a wall of flame that blazed around the guns!  
Then limbered up and drove at speed, though horses fell and died;  
We might not halt for man nor beast on that wild, daring ride.  
Black with the smoke and parched with thirst, we pressed the livelong day  
Our headlong march to Kimberley to drive the Boers away.

We reached the drift at fall of night, and camped across the ford.  
Next day from all the hills around the Dutchman's cannon roared.  
A narrow pass ran through the hills, with guns on either side;  
The boldest man might well turn pale before that pass he tried,  
For, if the first attack should fail, then every hope was gone:  
But French looked once, and only once, and then he said, "Push on!"  
The gunners plied their guns amain; the hail of shrapnel flew;  
With rifle fire and lancer charge their squadrons back we threw;  
And through the pass between the hills we swept in furious fray,  
And French was through to Kimberley to drive the Boers away.

Ay, French was through to Kimberley! And ere the day was done  
We saw the Diamond City stand, lit by the evening sun:  
Above the town the heliograph hung like an eye of flame:  
Around the town the foemen camped—they knew not that we came;  
But soon they saw us, rank on rank; they heard our squadrons' tread;  
In panic fear they left their tents, in hopeless rout they fled—  
And French rode into Kimberley; the people cheered amain,  
The women came with tear-stained eyes to touch his bridle rein,  
The starving children lined the streets to raise a feeble cheer,  
The bells rang out a joyous peal to say "Relief is here!"  
Ay! we that saw that stirring march are proud that we can say  
We went with French to Kimberley to drive the Boers away.

## BY THE GREY GULF-WATER

Far to the Northward there lies a land,  
A wonderful land that the winds blow over,  
And none may fathom or understand  
The charm it holds for the restless rover;

A great grey chaos—a land half made,  
Where endless space is and no life stirreth;  
There the soul of a man will recoil afraid  
From the sphinx-like visage that Nature weareth.  
But old Dame Nature, though scornful, craves  
Her dole of death and her share of slaughter;  
Many indeed are the nameless graves  
Where her victims sleep by the Grey Gulf-water.

Slowly and slowly those grey streams glide,  
Drifting along with a languid motion,  
Lapping the reed-beds on either side,  
Wending their way to the Northern Ocean.  
Grey are the plains where the emus pass  
Silent and slow, with their staid demeanour;  
Over the dead men's graves the grass  
Maybe is waving a trifle greener.  
Down in the world where men toil and spin  
Dame Nature smiles as man's hand has taught her;  
Only the dead men her smiles can win  
In the great lone land by the Grey Gulf-water.

For the strength of man is an insect's strength  
In the face of that mighty plain and river,  
And the life of a man is a moment's length  
To the life of the stream that will run for ever.  
And so it comes that they take no part  
In small world worries; each hardy rover  
Rides like a paladin, light of heart,  
With the plains around and the blue sky over.

And up in the heavens the brown lark sings  
 The songs that the strange wild land has taught  
 her;  
 Full of thanksgiving her sweet song rings—  
 And I wish I were back by the Grey Gulf-water.

### WITH THE CATTLE

The drought is down on field and flock,  
 The river-bed is dry;  
 And we must shift the starving stock  
 Before the cattle die.  
 We muster up with weary hearts  
 At breaking of the day,  
 And turn our heads to foreign parts,  
 To take the stock away.  
 And it's hunt 'em up and dog 'em,  
 And it's get the whip and flog 'em,  
 For it's weary work, is droving, when they're  
 dying every day;  
 By stock routes bare and eaten,  
 On dusty roads and beaten,  
 With half a chance to save their lives we take  
 the stock away.

We cannot use the whip for shame  
 On beasts that crawl along;  
 We have to drop the weak and lame,  
 And try to save the strong;

The wrath of God is on the track,  
The drought fiend holds his sway;  
With blows and cries and stockwhip crack  
We take the stock away.

As they fall we leave them lying,  
With the crows to watch them dying,  
Grim sextons of the Overland that fasten on  
their prey;  
By the fiery dust-storm drifting,  
And the mocking mirage shifting,  
In heat and drought and hopeless pain we take  
the stock away.

In dull despair the days go by  
With never hope of change,  
But every stage we feel more nigh  
The distant mountain range;  
And some may live to climb the pass,  
And reach the great plateau,  
And revel in the mountain grass  
By streamlets fed with snow.  
As the mountain wind is blowing  
It starts the cattle lowing  
And calling to each other down the dusty long  
array;  
And there speaks a grizzled drover:  
"Well, thank God, the worst is over,  
The creatures smell the mountain grass that's  
twenty miles away."

They press towards the mountain grass,  
They look with eager eyes  
Along the rugged stony pass  
That slopes towards the skies;

Their feet may bleed from rocks and stones,  
 But, though the blood-drop starts,  
 They struggle on with stifled groans,  
 For hope is in their hearts.  
 And the cattle that are leading,  
 Though their feet are worn and bleeding,  
 Are breaking to a kind of run—pull up, and let  
 them go!  
 For the mountain wind is blowing,  
 And the mountain grass is growing,  
 They'll settle down by running streams ice-cold  
 with melted snow.

The days are gone of heat and drought  
 Upon the stricken plain;  
 The wind has shifted right about,  
 And brought the welcome rain;  
 The river runs with sullen roar,  
 All flecked with yellow foam,  
 And we must take the road once more  
 To bring the cattle home.  
 And it's "Lads! we'll raise a chorus,  
 There's a pleasant trip before us."  
 And the horses bound beneath us as we start  
 them down the track;  
 And the drovers canter, singing,  
 Through the sweet green grasses springing,  
 Towards the far-off mountain-land, to bring the  
 cattle back.

Are these the beasts we brought away  
 That move so lively now?

They scatter off like flying spray  
Across the mountain's brow;  
And dashing down the rugged range  
We hear the stockwhip crack—  
Good faith, it is a welcome change  
To bring such cattle back.  
And it's "Steady down the lead there!"  
And it's "Let 'em stop and feed there!"  
For they're wild as mountain eagles, and their  
sides are all afoam;  
But they're settling down already,  
And they'll travel nice and steady;  
With cheery call and jest and song we fetch the  
cattle home.

We have to watch them close at night  
For fear they'll make a rush,  
And break away in headlong flight  
Across the open bush;  
And by the camp-fire's cheery blaze,  
With mellow voice and strong,  
We hear the lonely watchman raise  
The Overlander's song:  
"Oh! it's when we're done with roving,  
With the camping and the droving,  
It's homeward down the Bland we'll go, and  
never more we'll roam;"  
While the stars shine out above us,  
Like the eyes of those who love us—  
The eyes of those who watch and wait to greet  
the cattle home.

The plains are all awave with grass,  
The skies are deepest blue;  
And leisurely the cattle pass  
And feed the long day through;  
But when we sight the station gate  
We make the stockwhips crack,  
A welcome sound to those who wait  
To greet the cattle back:  
And through the twilight falling  
We hear their voices calling,  
As the cattle splash across the ford and churn it  
into foam;  
And the children run to meet us,  
And our wives and sweethearts greet us,  
Their heroes from the Overland who brought  
the cattle home.

### THE FIRST SURVEYOR

"The opening of the railway line!—the Governor  
and all!  
With flags and banners down the street, a banquet  
and a ball.  
Hark to 'em at the station now! They're raising  
cheer on cheer!  
'The man who brought the railway through—our  
friend the engineer!'

"They cheer *his* pluck and enterprise and engineering skill!

'Twas my old husband found the pass behind that big red hill.

Before the engineer was born we'd settled with our stock

Behind that great big mountain chain, a line of range and rock—

A line that kept us starving there in weary weeks of drought,

With ne'er a track across the range to let the cattle out.

"'Twas then, with horses starved and weak and scarcely fit to crawl,

My husband went to find a way across that rocky wall.

He vanished in the wilderness—God knows where he has gone—

He hunted till his food gave out, but still he battled on.

His horses strayed ('twas well they did) they made towards the grass,

And down behind that big red hill they found an easy pass.

"He followed up and blazed the trees, to show the safest track,

Then drew his belt another hole and turned and started back.

His horses died—just one pulled through with  
nothing much to spare;  
God bless the beast that brought him home, the old  
white Arab mare!  
We drove the cattle through the hills, along the  
new-found way,  
And this was our first camping-ground—just where  
I live to-day.

"Then others came across the range and built the  
township here,  
And then there came the railway line and this  
young engineer;  
He drove about with tents and traps, a cook to  
cook his meals,  
A bath to wash himself at night, a chain-man at his  
heels.  
And that was all the pluck and skill for which he's  
cheered and praised,  
For after all he took the track, the same my hus-  
band blazed!

"My poor old husband, dead and gone with never  
feast nor cheer;  
He's buried by the railway line!—I wonder can he  
hear  
When by the very track he marked, and close to  
where's he's laid,  
The catt'e trains go roaring down the one-in-thirty  
grade.

I wonder does he hear them pass, and can he see  
the sight

When, whistling shrill, the fast express goes flaming  
by at night.

"I think 'twould comfort him to know there's  
someone left to care;

I'll take some things this very night and hold a  
banquet there—

The hard old fare we've often shared together, him  
and me,

Some damper and a bite of beef, a pannikin of tea:  
We'll do without the bands and flags, the speeches  
and the fuss,

We know who *ought* to get the cheers—and that's  
enough for us.

"What's that? They wish that I'd come down—  
the oldest settler here!

Present me to the Governor and that young  
engineer!

Well, just you tell his Excellence, and put the thing  
polite,

I'm sorry, but I can't come down—I'm dining out  
to-night!"

### MULGA BILL'S BICYCLE

'Twas Mulga Bill, from Eaglehawk, that caught  
the cycling craze;

He turned away the good old horse that served him  
many days;

He dressed himself in cycling clothes, resplendent  
to be seen;  
He hurried off to town and bought a shining new  
machine;  
And as he wheeled it through the door, with air  
of lordly pride,  
The grinning shop assistant said, "Excuse me, can  
you ride?"

"See here, young man," said Mulga Bill, "from  
Walgett to the sea,  
From Conroy's Gap to Castlereagh, there's none  
can ride like me.  
I'm good all round at everything, as everybody  
knows,  
Although I'm not the one to talk—I hate a man  
that blows.

"But riding is my special gift, my chiefest, sole  
delight;  
Just ask a wild duck can it swim, a wild cat can it  
fight.  
There's nothing clothed in hair or hide, or built of  
flesh or steel  
There's nothing walks or jumps, or runs, on axle,  
hoof, or wheel,  
But what I'll sit, while hide will hold and girths  
and straps are tight;  
I'll ride this here two-wheeled concern right  
straight away at sight."

'Twas Mulga Bill, from Eaglehawk, that sought his own abode,  
That perched above the Dead Man's Creek, beside the mountain road.  
He turned the cycle down the hill and mounted for the fray,  
But ere he'd gone a dozen yards it bolted clean away.  
It left the track, and through the trees, just like a silver streak,  
It whistled down the awful slope towards the Dead Man's Creek.

It shaved a stump by half an inch, it dodged a big white-box:  
The very wallaroos in fright went scrambling up the rocks,  
The wombats hiding in their caves dug deeper underground,  
But Mulga Bill, as white as chalk, sat tight to every bound.  
It struck a stone and gave a spring that cleared a fallen tree,  
It raced beside a precipice as close as close could be;  
And then, as Mulga Bill let out one last despairing shriek,  
It made a leap of twenty feet into the Dead Man's Creek.

'Twas Mulga Bill, from Eaglehawk, that slowly  
 swam ashore:  
 He said, "I've had some narrer shaves and lively  
 rides before;  
 I've rode a wild bull round a yard to win a five-  
 pound bet,  
 But this was sure the derndest ride that I've encoun-  
 tered yet.  
 I'll give that two-wheeled outlaw best; it's shaken  
 all my nerve  
 To feel it whistle through the air and plunge and  
 buck and swerve.  
 It's safe at rest in Dead Man's Creek—we'll leave it  
 lying still;  
 A horse's back is good enough henceforth for Mulga  
 Bill."

### THE PEARL DIVER

Kanzo Makame, the diver, sturdy and small Japanee,  
 Seeker of pearls and of pearl-shell down in the  
 depths of the sea,  
 Trudged o'er the bed of the ocean, searching  
 industriously.

Over the pearl-grounds the lugger drifted—a little  
 white speck:  
 Joe Nagasaki, the "tender," holding the life-line on  
 deck,  
 Talked through the rope to the diver, knew when to  
 drift or to check.

Kanzo was king of his lugger, master and diver in  
one,  
Diving wherever it pleased him, taking instructions  
from none;  
Hither and thither he wandered, steering by stars  
and by sun.

Fearless he was beyond credence, looking at death  
eye to eye:  
This was his formula always, "All man go dead by  
and by—  
S'posing time come no can help it—s'pose time no  
come, then no die."

Dived in the depths of the Darnleys, down twenty  
fathom and five;  
Down where by law, and by reason, men are for-  
bidden to dive;  
Down in a pressure so awful that only the strongest  
survive:

Sweated four men at the air pumps, fast as the  
handles could go,  
Forcing the air down that reached him heated and  
tainted, and slow—  
Kanzo Makame the diver stayed seven minutes  
below;

Came up on deck like a dead man, paralysed body  
and brain;  
Suffered, while blood was returning, infinite tortures  
of pain:  
Sailed once again to the Darnleys—laughed and  
descended again!

Scarce grew the shell in the shallows, rarely a patch  
could they touch;  
Always the take was so little, always the labour so  
much;  
Always they thought of the Islands held by the  
lumbering Dutch—

Islands where shell was in plenty lying in passage  
and bay,  
Islands where divers could gather hundreds of shell  
in a day:  
But the lumbering Dutch in their gunboats they  
hunted the divers away.

Joe Nagasaki, the "tender," finding the profits grow  
small,  
Said, "Let us go to the Islands, try for a number  
one haul!  
If we get caught, go to prison—let them take lugger  
and all!"

Kanzo Makame, the diver—knowing full well what  
it meant—  
Fatalist, gambler, and stoic, smiled a broad smile of  
content,  
Flattened in mainsail and foresail, and off to the  
Islands they went.

Close to the headlands they drifted, picking up shell  
by the ton,  
Piled up on deck were the oysters, opening wide in  
the sun,

When, from the lee of the headland, boomed the report of a gun.

Then if the diver was sighted, pearl-shell and lugger must go—

Joe Nagasaki decided (quick was the word and the blow),

Cut both the pipe and the life-line, leaving the diver below!

Kanzo Makame, the diver, failing to quite understand,

Pulled the "haul up" on the life-line, found it was slack in his hand;

Then, like a little brown stoic, lay down and died on the sand.

Joe Nagasaki, the "tender," smiling a sanctified smile,

Headed her straight for the gunboat—throwing out shells all the while—

Then went aboard and reported, "No makee dive in three mile!"

"Dress no have got and no helmet—diver go shore on the spree;

Plenty wind come and break rudder—lugger get blown out to sea:

Take me to Japanee Consul, he help a poor Japanee!"

So the Dutch let him go; but they watched him, as  
 off from the Islands he ran,  
 Doubting him much—but what would you? You  
 have to be sure of your man  
 Ere you wake up that nest-full of hornets—the little  
 brown men of Japan.

Down in the ooze and the coral, down where earth's  
 wonders are spread,  
 Helmeted, ghastly, and swollen, Kanzo Makame lies  
 dead.

Joe Nagasaki, his "tender," is owner and diver  
 instead.

Wearer of pearls in your necklace, comfort yourself  
 if you can.  
 These are the risks of the pearl—these are the  
 ways of Japan;  
 "Plenty more Japane diver, plenty more little  
 brown man!"

### CITY OF DREADFUL THIRST

The stranger came from Narromine and made his  
 little joke;  
 "They say we folks in Narromine are narrow-  
 minded folk;  
 But all the smartest men down here are puzzled to  
 define  
 A kind of new phenomenon that came to Narro-  
 mine.

"Last summer up in Narromine 'twas gettin' rather  
warm—  
Two hundred in the water-bag, and lookin' like a  
storm—  
We all were in the private bar, the coolest place in  
town,  
When out across the stretch of plain a cloud came  
rollin' down.

"We don't respect the clouds up there, they fill us  
with disgust,  
They mostly bring a Bogan shower—three rain-  
drops and some dust;  
But each man, simultaneous-like, to each man said,  
'I think  
That cloud suggests it's up to us to have another  
drink!'

"There's clouds of rain and clouds of dust—we'd  
heard of them before,  
And sometimes in the daily press we read of 'clouds  
of war:'  
But—if this ain't the Gospel truth I hope that I  
may burst—  
That cloud that came to Narromine was just a cloud  
of thirst.

"It wasn't like a common cloud, 'twas more a sort  
of haze;  
It settled down about the streets, and stopped for  
days and days;

And not a drop of dew could fall, and not a sun-beam shine  
To pierce that dismal sort of mist that hung on Narromine.

"Oh, Lord! we had a dreadful time beneath that cloud of thirst!  
We all chucked-up our daily work and went upon the burst.  
The very blacks about the town, that used to cadge for grub,  
They made an organized attack and tried to loot the pub.

"We couldn't leave the private bar no matter how we tried;  
Shearers and squatters, union-men and blacklegs side by side  
Were drinkin' there and dursn't move, for each was sure, he said,  
Before he'd get a half-a-mile the thirst would strike him dead!

"We drank until the drink gave out; we searched from room to room,  
And round the pub, like drunken ghosts, went howling through the gloom.  
The shearers found some kerosene and settled down again,  
But all the squatter chaps and I, we staggered to the train.

"And once outside the cloud of thirst we felt as right as pie,  
But while we stopped about the town we had to drink or die.  
I hear to-day it's safe enough; I'm going back to work  
Because they say the cloud of thirst has shifted on to Bourke.

"But when you see those clouds about—like this one over here—  
All white and frothy at the top, just like a pint of beer,  
It's time to go and have a drink, for if that cloud should burst  
You'd find the drink would all be gone, for that's a cloud of thirst!"

We stood the man from Narromine a pint of half-and-half;  
He drank it off without a gasp in one tremendous quaff;  
"I joined some friends last night," he said, "in what *they* called a spree;  
But after Narromine 'twas just a holiday to me."

And now beyond the Western Range, where sunset skies are red,  
And clouds of dust, and clouds of thirst, go drifting overhead,

The railway-train is taking back, along the Western Line,  
That narrow-minded person on his road to Narromine.

### SALTBUSH BILL'S GAMECOCK

'Twas Saltbush Bill, with his travelling sheep, was making his way to town;  
He crossed them over the Hard Times Run, and he came to the Take 'Em Down;  
He counted through at the boundary gate, and camped at the drafting yard:  
For Stingy Smith, of the Hard Times Run, had hunted him rather hard.  
He bore no malice to Stingy Smith—'twas simply the hand of Fate  
That caused his waggon to swerve aside and shatter old Stingy's gate;  
And being only the hand of Fate, it follows, without a doubt,  
It wasn't the fault of Saltbush Bill that Stingy's sheep got out.  
So Saltbush Bill, with an easy heart, prepared for what might befall,  
Commenced his stages on Take 'Em Down, the station of Rooster Hall.

'Tis strange how often the men out back will take  
to some curious craft,  
Some ruling passion to keep their thoughts away  
from the overdraft;  
And Rooster Hall, of the Take 'Em Down, was  
widely known to fame  
As breeder of champion fighting cocks—his *forte*  
was the British Game.  
The passing stranger within his gates that camped  
with old Rooster Hall  
Was forced to talk about fowls all night, or else not  
talk at all.  
Though droughts should come, and though sheep  
should die, his fowls were his sole delight;  
He left his shed in the flood of work to watch two  
gamecocks fight.  
He held in scorn the Australian Game, that long-  
legged child of sin;  
In a desperate fight, with the steel-tipped spurs, the  
British Game must win!  
The Australian bird was a mongrel bird, with a  
touch of the jungle cock;  
The want of breeding must find him out, when  
facing the English stock;  
For British breeding, and British pluck, must  
triumph it over all—  
And that was the root of the simple creed that  
governed old Rooster Hall.

'Twas Saltbush Bill to the station rode ahead of his  
travelling sheep,  
And sent a message to Rooster Hall that wakened  
him out of his sleep—  
A crafty message that fetched him out, and hurried  
him as he came—  
"A drover has an Australian bird to match with  
your British Game."  
'Twas done, and done in half a trice; a five-pound  
note a side;  
Old Rooster Hall, with his champion bird, and the  
drover's bird untried.  
"Steel spurs, of course?" said old Rooster Hall;  
"you'll need 'em, without a doubt!"  
"You stick the spurs on your bird!" said Bill, "but  
mine fights best without."  
"Fights best without?" said old Rooster Hall; "he  
can't fight best unspurred!  
You must be crazy!" But Saltbush Bill said, "Wait  
till you see my bird!"  
So Rooster Hall to his fowl-yard went, and quickly  
back he came,  
Bearing a clipt and a shaven cock, the pride of his  
English Game;  
With an eye as fierce as an eaglehawk, and a crow  
like a trumpet call,  
He strutted about on the garden walk, and cackled  
at Rooster Hall.  
Then Rooster Hall sent off a boy with word to his  
cronies two,  
McCrae (the boss of the Black Police) and Father  
Donahoo.

Full many a cockfight old McCrae had held in his empty Court,  
With Father D. as the picker-up—a regular all-round Sport!  
They got the message of Rooster Hall, and down to his run they came,  
Prepared to scoff at the drover's bird, and to bet on the English Game;  
They hied them off to the drover's camp, while Salt-bush rode before—  
Old Rooster Hall was a blithesome man, when he thought of the treat in store.  
They reached the camp, where the drover's cook, with countenance all serene,  
Was boiling beef in an iron pot, but never a fowl was seen.

"Take off the beef from the fire," said Bill, "and wait till you see the fight;  
There's something fresh for the bill-of-fare—there's game-fowl stew to-night!  
For Mister Hall has a fighting cock, all feathered and clipped and spurred;  
And he's fetched him here, for a bit of sport, to fight our Australian bird.  
I've made a match that our pet will win, though he's hardly a fighting cock,  
But he's game enough, and it's many a mile that he's tramped with the travelling stock."  
The cook he banged on a saucepan lid; and, soon as the sound was heard,

Under the dray, in the shadow hid, a something  
 moved and stirred:  
 A great tame emu strutted out. Said Saltbush,  
 "Here's our bird!"  
 But Rooster Hall, and his cronies two, drove home  
 without a word.

The passing stranger within his gates that camps  
 with old Rooster Hall  
 Must talk about something else than fowls, if he  
 wishes to talk at all.  
 For the record lies in the local Court, and filed in  
 its deepest vault,  
 That Peter Hall, of the Take 'Em Down, was tried  
 for a fierce assault  
 On a stranger man, who, in all good faith, and  
 prompted by what he heard,  
 Had asked old Hall if a British Game could beat an  
 Australian bird;  
 And old McCrae, who was on the Bench, as soon  
 as the case was tried,  
 Remarked, "Discharged with a clean discharge—the  
 assault was justified!"

### HAY AND HELL AND BOOLIGAL

"You come and see me, boys," he said;  
 You'll find a welcome and a bed  
 And whisky any time you call;

Although our township hasn't got  
The name of quite a lively spot—  
    You see, I live in Booligal.

"And people have an awful down  
Upon the district and the town—  
    Which worse than hell itself they call;  
In fact, the saying far and wide  
Along the Riverina side  
    Is 'Hay and Hell and Booligal.'

"No doubt it suits 'em very well  
To say it's worse than Hay or Hell,  
    But don't you heed their talk at all;  
Of course, there's heat—no one denies—  
And sand and dust and stacks of flies,  
    And rabbits, too, at Booligal.

"But such a pleasant, quiet place—  
You never see a stranger's face;  
    They hardly ever care to call;  
The drovers mostly pass it by—  
They reckon that they'd rather die  
    Than spend the night in Booligal.

"The big mosquitoes frighten some—  
You'll lie awake to hear 'em hum—  
    And snakes about the township crawl;  
But shearers, when they get their cheque,  
They never come along and wreck  
    The blessed town of Booligal.

"But down to Hay the shearers come  
 And fill themselves with fighting-rum,  
 And chase blue devils up the wall,  
 And fight the snaggers every day,  
 Until there is the deuce to pay—  
 There's none of that in Booligal.

"Of course, there isn't much to see—  
 The billiard-table used to be  
 The great attraction for us all,  
 Until some careless, drunken curs  
 Got sleeping on it in their spurs,  
 And ruined it, in Booligal.

"Just now there is a howling drought  
 That pretty near has starved us out—  
 It never seems to rain at all;  
 But, if there *should* come any rain,  
 You couldn't cross the black-soil plain—  
 You'd have to stop in Booligal."

*"We'd have to stop!"* With bated breath  
 We prayed that both in life and death  
 Our fate in other lines might fall:  
 "Oh, send us to our just reward  
 In Hay or Hell, but, gracious Lord,  
 Deliver us from Booligal!"

## A WALGETT EPISODE

The sun strikes down with a blinding glare;

The skies are blue and the plains are wide,  
The saltbush plains that are burnt and bare

By Walgett out on the Barwon side—

The Barwon River that wanders down  
In a leisurely manner by Walgett Town.

There came a stranger—a “Cockatoo”—

The word means farmer, as all men know,  
Who dwell in the land where the kangaroo  
Barks loud at dawn, and the white-eyed crow  
Uplifts his song on the stock-yard fence  
As he watches the lambkins passing hence.

The sunburnt stranger was gaunt and brown,

But it soon appeared that he meant to flout  
The iron law of the country town,

Which is—that the stranger has got to shout:  
“If he will not shout we must take him down,”  
Remarked the yokels of Walgett Town.

They baited a trap with a crafty bait,

With a crafty bait, for they held discourse  
Concerning a new chum who there of late  
Had bought such a thoroughly lazy horse;  
They would wager that no one could ride him  
down  
The length of the city of Walgett Town.

The stranger was born on a horse's hide;  
 So he took the wagers, and made them good  
 With his hard-earned cash—but his hopes they  
 died,

For the horse was a clothes-horse, made of  
 wood!—

'Twas a well-known horse that had taken down  
 Full many a stranger in Walgett Town.

The stranger smiled with a sickly smile—  
 'Tis a sickly smile that the loser grins—  
 And he said he had travelled for quite a while  
 A-trying to sell some marsupial skins.

"And I thought that perhaps, as you've took me  
 down,  
 You would buy them from me, in Walgett Town!"

He said that his home was at Wingadee,  
 At Wingadee, where he had for sale  
 Some fifty skins and would guarantee  
 They were full-sized skins, with the ears and tail  
 Complete; and he sold them for money down  
 To a venturesome buyer in Walgett Town.

Then he smiled a smile as he pouched the pelf,  
 "I'm glad that I'm quit of them, win or lose:  
 You can fetch them in when it suits yourself,  
 And you'll find the skins—on the kangaroos!"  
 Then he left—and the silence settled down  
 Like a tangible thing upon Walgett Town.

## FATHER RILEY'S HORSE

'Twas the horse thief, Andy Regan, that was hunted  
like a dog

By the troopers of the Upper Murray side;  
They had searched in every gully, they had looked  
in every log,

But never sight or track of him they spied,  
Till the priest at Kiley's Crossing heard a knocking  
very late

And a whisper "Father Riley—come across!"  
So his Reverence, in pyjamas, trotted softly to the  
gate

And admitted Andy Regan—and a horse!

"Now, it's listen, Father Riley, to the words I've got  
to say,

For it's close upon my death I am to-night.  
With the troopers hard behind me I've been hiding  
all the day

In the gullies keeping close and out of sight.  
But they're watching all the ranges till there's not  
a bird could fly,

And I'm fairly worn to pieces with the strife,  
So I'm taking no more trouble, but I'm going home  
to die,

'Tis the only way I see to save my life.

"Yes, I'm making home to mother's, and I'll die o'  
 Tuesday next  
 An' be buried on the Thursday—and, of course,  
 I'm prepared to do my penance; but with one thing  
 I'm perplexed  
 And it's—Father, it's this jewel of a horse!  
 He was never bought nor paid for, and there's not a  
 man can swear  
 To his owner or his breeder, but I know  
 That his sire was by Pedantic from the Old Pre-  
 tender mare,  
 And his dam was close related to The Roe.

"And there's nothing in the district that can race  
 him for a step—  
 He could canter while they're going at their top:  
 He's the king of all the leppers that was ever seen  
 to lep;  
 A five-foot fence—he'd clear it in a hop!  
 So I'll leave him with you, Father, till the dead  
 shall rise again,  
 'Tis yourself that knows a good un; and, of  
 course,  
 You can say he's got by Moonlight out of Paddy  
 Murphy's plain  
 If you're ever asked the breeding of the horse!

"But it's getting on to daylight, and it's time to say  
 good-bye,  
 For the stars above the East are growing pale.

And I'm making home to mother—and it's hard for  
me to die!

But it's harder still, is keeping out of gaol!  
You can ride the old horse over to my grave across  
the dip,

Where the wattle-bloom is waving overhead.  
Sure he'll jump them fences easy—you must never  
raise the whip  
Or he'll rush 'em!—now, good-bye!" and he had  
fled!

So they buried Andy Regan, and they buried him to  
rights,

In the graveyard at the back of Kiley's Hill;  
There were five-and-twenty mourners who had five-  
and-twenty fights

Till the very boldest fighters had their fill.  
There were fifty horses racing from the graveyard  
to the pub,

And the riders flogged each other all the while—  
And the lashins of the liquor! And the lavins of  
the grub!

Oh, poor Andy went to rest in proper style.

Then the races came to Kiley's—with a steeplechase  
and all,

For the folk were mostly Irish round about,  
And it takes an Irish rider to be fearless of a fall;  
They were training morning in and morning out.

But they never started training till the sun was on  
the course,

For a superstitious story kept 'em back.

That the ghost of Andy Regan on a slashing chestnut horse  
Had been training by the starlight on the track.

And they read the nominations for the races with surprise

And amusement at the Father's little joke,  
For a novice had been entered for the steeplechasing prize,

And they found that it was Father Riley's moke!  
He was neat enough to gallop, he was strong enough to stay!

But his owner's views of training were immense,  
For the Reverend Father Riley used to ride him every day,

And he never saw a hurdle nor a fence.

And the priest would join the laughter; "Oh," said he, "I put him in,

For there's five-and-twenty sovereigns to be won;  
And the poor would find it useful if the chestnut chanced to win,

As he'll maybe do when all is said and done!"  
He had called him Faugh-a-ballagh (which is French for 'Clear the course'),

And his colours were a vivid shade of green:  
All the Dooleys and O'Donnells were on Father Riley's horse,

While the Orangemen were backing Mandarin!

It was Hogan, the dog-poisoner—aged man and very wise,

Who was camping in the racecourse with his swag,

And who ventured the opinion, to the township's  
great surprise,  
That the race would go to Father Riley's nag.  
"You can talk about your riders—and the horse has  
not been schooled,  
And the fences is terrific, and the rest!  
When the field is fairly going, then ye'll see ye've all  
been fooled.  
And the chestnut horse will battle with the best.

"For there's some has got condition, and they think  
the race is sure,  
And the chestnut horse will fall beneath the  
weight;  
But the hopes of all the helpless, and the prayers of  
all the poor,  
Will be running by his side to keep him straight.  
And it's what's the need of schoolin' or of workin'  
on the track,  
Whin the Saints are there to guide him round the  
course!  
I've prayed him over every fence—I've prayed him  
out and back!  
And I'll bet my cash on Father Riley's horse!"

Oh, the steeple was a caution! They went tearin'  
round and round,  
And the fences rang and rattled where they struck.  
There was some that cleared the water—there was  
more fell in and drowned—  
Some blamed the men and others blamed the luck!

But the whips were flying freely when the field  
came into view  
For the finish down the long green stretch of  
course,  
And in front of all the flyers, jumpin' like a  
kangaroo,  
Came the rank outsider—Father Riley's horse!

Oh, the shouting and the cheering as he rattled past  
the post!  
For he left the others standing, in the straight;  
And the rider—well, they reckoned it was Andy  
Regan's ghost,  
And it beat 'em how a ghost would draw the  
weight!  
But he weighed it, nine stone seven; then he laughed  
and disappeared,  
Like a Banshee (which is Spanish for an elf),  
And old Hogan muttered sagely, "If it wasn't for  
the beard  
They'd be thinking it was Andy Regan's self!"

And the poor of Kiley's Crossing drank the health  
at Christmastide  
Of the chestnut and his rider dressed in green.  
There was never such a rider, not since Andy Regan  
died,  
And they wondered who on earth he could have  
been.  
But they settled it among 'em, for the story got  
about,  
'Mongst the bushmen and the people on the  
course,

That the Devil had been ordered to let Andy Regan  
out  
For the steeplechase on Father Riley's horse!

## THE SCOTTISH ENGINEER

With eyes that searched in the dark,  
Peering along the line,  
Stood the grim Scotsman, Hector Clark,  
Driver of "Forty-nine."  
And the veldt-fire flamed on the hills ahead,  
Like a blood-red beacon sign.

There was word of a fight to the north,  
And a column too hardly pressed,  
So they started the Highlanders forth,  
Heedless of food or rest.

But the pipers gaily played,  
Chanting their fierce delight,  
And the armoured carriages rocked and swayed,  
Laden with men of the Scots Brigade,  
Hurrying up to the fight,  
And the grim, grey Highland engineer  
Driving them into the night.

Then a signal light glowed red,  
And a picket came to the track.

"Enemy holding the line ahead;  
Three of our mates we have left for dead,  
Only we two got back."  
And far to the north through the still night air  
They heard the rifles crack.

And the boom of a gun rang out,  
Like the sound of a deep appeal,  
And the picket stood in doubt  
By the side of the driving-wheel.

But the engineer looked down,  
With his hand on the starting-bar,  
"Ride ye back to the town,  
Ye know what my orders are,  
Maybe they're wanting the Scots Brigade  
Up on those hills afar.

"I am no soldier at all,  
Only an engineer;  
But I could not bear that the folk should say  
Over in Scotland—Glasgow way—  
That Hector Clark stayed here  
With the Scots Brigade till the foe was gone,  
With ever a rail to run her on.  
Ready behind! Stand clear!

"Fireman, get you gone  
Into the armoured train—  
I will drive her alone;  
One more trip—and perhaps the last—  
With a well-raked fire and an open blast;  
Hark to the rifles again!"

On through the choking dark,  
Never a lamp nor a light,  
Never an engine spark  
Showing her hurried flight,  
Over the lonely plain  
Rushed the great armoured train,  
Hurrying up to the fight.

Then with her living freight  
On to the foe she came,  
And the rifles snapped their hate,  
And the darkness spouted flame.

Over the roar of the fray  
The hungry bullets whined,  
As she dashed through the foe that lay  
Loading and firing blind,  
Till the glare of the furnace, burning clear,  
Showed them the form of the engineer  
Sharply and well defined.

Through! They are safely through!  
Hark to the column's cheer!  
Surely the driver knew  
He was to halt her here;  
But he took no heed of the signals red,  
And the fireman found, when he climbed ahead,  
There on the floor of his engine—dead—  
The Scottish Engineer!

## SONG OF THE FUTURE

'Tis strange that in a land so strong,  
So strong and bold in mighty youth,  
We have no poet's voice of truth  
To sing for us a wondrous song.

Our chiefest singer yet has sung  
In wild, sweet notes a passing strain,  
All carelessly and sadly flung  
To that dull world he thought so vain.

"I care for nothing, good nor bad,  
My hopes are gone, my pleasures fled,  
I am but sifting sand," he said:  
What wonder Gordon's songs were sad!

And yet, not always sad and hard;  
In cheerful mood and light of heart  
He told the tale of Britomarte,  
And wrote the Rhyme of Joyous Garde.

And some have said that Nature's face  
To us is always sad; but these  
Have never felt the smiling grace  
Of waving grass and forest trees  
On sunlit plains as wide as seas.

"A land where dull Déspair is king  
O'er scentless flower and songless bird!"  
But we have heard the bell-birds ring  
Their silver bells at eventide,  
Like fairies on the mountain side,  
The sweetest note man ever heard.

The wild thrush lifts a note of mirth;  
The bronzewing pigeons call and coo  
Beside their nests the long day through;  
The magpie warbles clear and strong  
A joyous, glad, thanksgiving song,  
For all God's mercies upon earth.

And many voices such as these  
Are joyful sounds for those to tell,  
Who know the Bush and love it well,  
With all its hidden mysteries.

We cannot love the restless sea,  
That rolls and tosses to and fro  
Like some fierce creature in its glee;  
For human weal or human woe  
It has no touch of sympathy.

For us the bush is never sad:  
Its myriad voices whisper low,  
In tones the bushmen only know,  
Its sympathy and welcome glad.

For us the roving breezes bring  
From many a blossom-tufted tree—  
Where wild bees murmur dreamily—  
The honey-laden breath of Spring.

We have our tales of other days,  
Good tales the northern wanderers tell  
When bushmen meet and camp-fires blaze,  
And round the ring of dancing light  
The great, dark bush with arms of night  
Folds every hearer in its spell.

We have our songs—not songs of strife  
And hot blood spilt on sea and land;  
But liltts that link achievement grand  
To honest toil and valiant life.

Lift ye your faces to the sky  
Ye barrier mountains in the west  
Who lie so peacefully at rest  
Enshrouded in a haze of blue;  
'Tis hard to feel that years went by  
Before the pioneers broke through  
Your rocky heights and walls of stone,  
And made your secrets all their own.

For years the fertile Western plains  
Were hid behind your sullen walls,  
Your cliffs and crags and waterfalls  
All weatherworn with tropic rains.

Between the mountains and the sea,  
Like Israelites with staff in hand,  
The people waited restlessly:  
They looked towards the mountains old  
And saw the sunsets come and go  
With gorgeous golden afterglow,  
That made the West a fairyland,  
And marvelled what that West might be  
Of which such wondrous tales were told.

For tales were told of inland seas  
Like sullen oceans, salt and dead,  
And sandy deserts, white and wan,  
Where never trod the foot of man,  
Nor bird went winging overhead,  
Nor ever stirred a gracious breeze  
To wake the silence with its breath—  
A land of loneliness and death.

At length the hardy pioneers  
By rock and crag found out the way,  
And woke with voices of to-day  
A silence kept for years and years.

Upon the Western slope they stood  
And saw—a wide expanse of plain  
As far as eye could stretch or see  
Go rolling westward endlessly.  
The native grasses, tall as grain,  
Bowed, waved and rippled in the breeze;  
From boughs of blossom-laden trees  
The parrots answered back again.  
They saw the land that it was good,

A land of fatness all untrod,  
And gave their silent thanks to God.

The way is won! The way is won!  
And straightway from the barren coast  
There came a westward-marching host,  
That aye and ever onward prest  
With eager faces to the West,  
Along the pathway of the sun.

The mountains saw them marching by:  
They faced the all-consuming drought,  
They would not rest in settled land:  
But, taking each his life in hand,  
Their faces ever westward bent  
Beyond the farthest settlement,  
Responding to the challenge cry  
Of "better country further out."

And lo, a miracle! the land  
But yesterday was all unknown,  
The wild man's boomerang was thrown  
Where now great busy cities stand.  
It was not much, you say, that these  
Should win their way where none withstood;  
In sooth there was not much of blood—  
No war was fought between the seas.

It was not much! but we who know  
The strange capricious land they trod—  
At times a stricken, parching sod,  
At times with raging floods beset—  
Through which they found their lonely way,  
Are quite content that you should say

It was not much, while we can feel  
That nothing in the ages old,  
In song or story written yet  
On Grecian urn or Roman arch,  
Though it should ring with clash of steel,  
Could braver histories unfold  
Than this bush story, yet untold—  
The story of their westward march.

But times are changed, and changes rung  
From old to new—the olden days,  
The old bush life and all its ways,  
Are passing from us all unsung.  
The freedom, and the hopeful sense  
Of toil that brought due recompense,  
Of room for all, has passed away,  
And lies forgotten with the dead.  
Within our streets men cry for bread  
In cities built but yesterday.

About us stretches wealth of land,  
A boundless wealth of virgin soil  
As yet unfruitful and untilled!  
Our willing workmen, strong and skilled,  
Within our cities idle stand,  
And cry aloud for leave to toil.

The stunted children come and go  
In squalid lanes and alleys black;  
We follow but the beaten track  
Of other nations, and we grow  
In wealth for some—for many, woe.

And it may be that we who live  
 In this new land apart, beyond  
 The hard old world grown fierce and fond  
 And bound by precedent and bond,  
 May read the riddle right, and give  
 New hope to those who dimly see  
 That all things yet shall be for good,  
 And teach the world at length to be  
 One vast united brotherhood.

So may it be! and he who sings  
 In accents hopeful, clear, and strong,  
 The glories which that future brings  
 Shall sing, indeed, a wondrous song.

### ANTHONY CONSIDINE

Out in the wastes of the West countrie,  
 Out where the white stars shine,  
 Grim and silent as such men be,  
 Rideth a man with a history—  
 Anthony Considine.

For the ways of men they are manifold  
 As their differing views in life;  
 Some sell themselves for the lust of gold,  
 And some for the lust of strife:  
 But this man counted the world well lost  
 For the love of his neighbour's wife.

They fled together, as those must flee  
Whom all men hold in blame;  
Each to the other must all things be  
Who cross the gulf of iniquity  
And live in the land of shame.

But a light-o'-love, if she sins with one,  
She sinneth with ninety-nine:  
The rule holds good since the world begun—  
Since ever the streams began to run  
And the stars began to shine.  
The rule holds still, and he found it true—  
Anthony Considine.

A nobler spirit had turned in scorn  
From a love that was stained with mire;  
A weaker being might mourn and mourn  
For the loss of his Heart's Desire:  
But the anger of Anthony Considine  
Blazed up like a flaming fire.

And she, with her new love, presently  
Came past with her eyes ashine;  
And God so willed it, and God knows why,  
She turned and laughed as they passed him by—  
Anthony Considine.

Her laughter stung as a whip might sting;  
And mad with his wounded pride  
He turned, and sprang with a panther's spring,  
And struck at his rival's side:

And only the woman, shuddering,  
Could tell how the dead man died!

She dared not speak—and the mystery  
Is buried in auld lang syne,  
But out on the wastes of the West countrie,  
Grim and silent as such men be,  
Rideth a man with a history—  
Anthony Considine.

### SONG OF THE ARTESIAN WATER

Now the stock have started dying, for the Lord has  
sent a drought;  
But we're sick of prayers and Providence—we're  
going to do without;  
With the derricks up above us and the solid earth  
below,  
We are waiting at the lever for the word to let her  
go.  
Sinking down, deeper down,  
Oh, we'll sink it deeper down:  
As the drill is plugging downward at a thousand feet  
of level,  
If the Lord won't send us water, oh, we'll get it  
from the devil;  
Yes, we'll get it from the devil deeper down.

Now, our engine's built in Glasgow by a very canny  
Scot,

And he marked it twenty horse-power, but he don't  
know what is what:

When Canadian Bill is firing with the sun-dried  
gidgee logs,

She can equal thirty horses and a score or so of  
dogs.

Sinking down, deeper down,

Oh, we're going deeper down:

If we fail to get the water, then it's ruin to the  
squatter,

For the drought is on the station and the weather's  
growing hotter,

But we're bound to get the water deeper down.

But the shaft has started caving and the sinking's  
very slow,

And the yellow rods are bending in the water down  
below,

And the tubes are always jamming, and they can't  
be made to shift

Till we nearly burst the engine with a forty horse-  
power lift.

Sinking down, deeper down,

Oh, we're going deeper down

Though the shaft is always caving, and the tubes are  
always jamming,

Yet we'll fight our way to water while the stubborn  
drill is ramming—

While the stubborn drill is ramming deeper down.

But there's no artesian water, though we've passed  
three thousand feet,  
And the contract price is growing, and the boss is  
nearly beat.  
But it must be down beneath us, and it's down we've  
got to go,  
Though she's bumping on the solid rock four  
thousand feet below.

Sinking down, deeper down,  
Oh, we're going deeper down:  
And it's time they heard us knocking on the roof of  
Satan's dwellin';  
But we'll get artesian water if we cave the roof of  
hell in—  
Oh! we'll get artesian water deeper down.

But it's hark! the whistle's blowing with a wild,  
exultant blast,  
And the boys are madly cheering, for they've struck  
the flow at last;  
And it's rushing up the tubing from four thousand  
feet below  
Till it spouts above the casing in a million-gallon  
flow.

And it's down, deeper down—  
Oh, it comes from deeper down;  
It is flowing, ever flowing, in a free, unstinted  
measure  
From the silent hidden places where the old earth  
hides her treasure—  
Where the old earth hides her treasures deeper down.

And it's clear away the timber, and it's let the water run:

How it glimmers in the shadow, how it flashes in the sun!

By the silent belts of timber, by the miles of blazing plain

It is bringing hope and comfort to the thirsty land again.

Flowing down, further down;

It is flowing further down

To the tortured thirsty cattle, bringing gladness in its going;

Through the droughty days of summer it is flowing, ever flowing—

It is flowing, ever flowing, further down.

### A DISQUALIFIED JOCKEY'S STORY

You see, the thing was this way—there was me,

That rode Panoppoly, the Splendor mare,

And Ikey Chambers on the Iron Dook,

And Smith, the half-caste rider, on Regret,

And that long bloke from Wagga—him what rode

Veronikew, the Snowy River horse.

Well, none of them had chances—not a chance

Among the lot, unless the rest fell dead

Or wasn't trying—for a blind man's dog

Could see Enchantress was a certain cop,

And all the books was layin' six to four.

They brought her out to show our lot the road,  
 Or so they said: but, then, Gord's truth! you know,  
 You can't believe 'em, though they took an oath  
 On forty Bibles that they'd tell the truth.

But anyhow, an amateur was up  
 On this Enchantress; and so Ike and me,  
 We thought that we might frighten him a bit  
 By asking if he minded riding rough—  
 "Oh, not at all," says he, "oh, not at all!  
 I learnt at Robbo Park, and if it comes  
 To bumping I'm your Moses! Strike me blue!"

Says he, "I'll bump you over either rail,  
 The inside rail or outside—which you choose  
 Is good enough for me"—which settled Ike.  
 For he was shaky since he near got killed  
 From being sent a buster on the rail,  
 When some chap bumped his horse and fetched  
 him down

At Stony Bridge; so Ikey thought it best  
 To leave this bloke alone, and I agreed.

So all the books was layin' six to four  
 Against the favourite, and the amateur  
 Was walking this Enchantress up and down,  
 And me and Smithy backed him; for we thought  
 We might as well get something for ourselves,  
 Because we knew our horses couldn't win.  
 But Ikey wouldn't back him for a bob;  
 Because he said he reckoned he was stiff,  
 And all the books was layin' six to four.

Well, anyhow, before the start the news  
Got round that this here amateur was stiff,  
And our good stuff was blued, and all the books  
Was in it, and the prices lengthened out,  
And every book was bustin' of his throat,  
And layin' five to one the favourite.  
So there was we that couldn't win ourselves,  
And this here amateur that wouldn't try,  
And all the books was layin' five to one.

So Smithy says to me, "You take a hold  
Of that there moke of yours, and round the turn  
Come up behind Enchantress with the whip  
And let her have it; that long bloke and me  
Will wait ahead, and when she comes to us  
We'll pass her on and belt her down the straight,  
And Ikey'll flog her home—because his boss  
Is judge and steward and the Lord knows what,  
And so he won't be touched; and, as for us,  
We'll swear we only hit her by mistake!"  
And all the books was layin' five to one.

Well, off we went, and comin' to the turn  
I saw the amateur was holding back  
And poking into every hole he could  
To get her blocked; and so I pulled behind  
And drew the whip and dropped it on the mare.  
I let her have it twice, and then she shot  
Ahead of me, and Smithy opened out  
And let her up beside him on the rails,  
And kept her there a-beltin' her like smoke  
Until she struggled past him, pullin' hard,

And came to Ike; but Ikey drew his whip  
 And hit her on the nose, and sent her back  
 And won the race himself—for, after all,  
 It seems he had a fiver on The Dook  
 And never told us—so our stuff was lost.  
 And then they had us up for ridin' foul,  
 And warned us off the tracks for twelve months  
 each  
 To get our livin' any way we could;  
 But Ikey wasn't touched, because his boss  
 Was judge and steward and the Lord knows what.

But Mister—if you'll lend us half-a-crown,  
 I know three certain winners at the Park—  
 Three certain cops as no one knows but me;  
 And—thank you, Mister, come an' have a beer  
 (I always like a beer about this time) . . .  
 Well, so long, Mister, till we meet again.

### THE ROAD TO GUNDAGAI

The mountain road goes up and down  
 From Gundagai to Tumut Town.

And, branching off, there runs a track  
 Across the foothills grim and black,

Across the plains and ranges grey  
 To Sydney city far away.

It came by chance one day that I  
 From Tumut rode to Gundagai,

And reached about the evening tide  
The crossing where the roads divide;

And, waiting at the crossing place,  
I saw a maiden fair of face,

With eyes of deepest violet blue,  
And cheeks to match the rose in hue—

The fairest maids Australia knows  
Are bred among the mountain snows.

Then, fearing I might go astray,  
I asked if she could show the way.

Her voice might well a man bewitch—  
Its tones so supple, deep, and rich.

“The tracks are clear,” she made reply,  
“And this goes down to Sydney town,  
And that one goes to Gundagai.”

Then slowly, looking coyly back,  
She went along the Sydney track.

And I for one was well content  
To go the road the lady went;

But round the turn a swain she met—  
The kiss she gave him haunts me yet!

I turned and travelled with a sigh  
The lonely road to Gundagai.

## SALTBUSH BILL'S SECOND FIGHT

The news came down on the Castlereagh, and went  
 to the world at large,  
 That twenty thousand travelling sheep, with Salt-  
 bush Bill in charge,  
 Were drifting down from a dried-out run to ravage  
 the Castlereagh;  
 And the squatters swore when they heard the news,  
 and wished they were well away:  
 For the name and the fame of Saltbush Bill were  
 over the country-side  
 For the wonderful way that he fed his sheep, and  
 the dodges and tricks he tried.

He would lose his way on a Main Stock Route, and  
 stray to the squatters' grass;  
 He would come to a run with the boss away, and  
 swear he had leave to pass;  
 And back of all and behind it all, as well the  
 squatters knew,  
 If he had to fight, he would fight all day, so long as  
 his sheep got through:  
 But this is the story of Stingy Smith, the owner of  
 Hard Times Hill,  
 And the way that he chanced on a fighting man to  
 reckon with Saltbush Bill.

'Twas Stingy Smith on his stockyard sat, and prayed  
 for an early Spring,  
 When he started at sight of a clean-shaved tramp,  
 who walked with a jaunty swing;

For a clean-shaved tramp with a jaunty walk  
a-swinging along the track  
Is as rare a thing as a feathered frog on the desolate  
roads out back.  
So the tramp he made for the travellers' hut, to ask  
could he camp the night;  
But Stingy Smith had a bright idea, and called to  
him, "Can you fight?"

"Why, what's the game?" said the clean-shaved  
tramp, as he looked at him up and down;  
"If you want a battle, get off that fence, and I'll kill  
you for half-a-crown!  
But, Boss, you'd better not fight with me—it  
wouldn't be fair nor right;  
I'm Stiffener Joe, from the Rocks Brigade, and I  
killed a man in a fight:  
I served two years for it, fair and square, and now  
I'm a-trampin' back,  
To look for a peaceful quiet life away on the outside  
track."

"Oh, it's not myself, but a drover chap," said Stingy  
Smith with glee;  
"A bullying fellow called Saltbush Bill, and you are  
the man for me.  
He's on the road with his hungry sheep, and he's  
certain to raise a row,  
For he's bullied the whole of the Castlereagh till he's  
got them under cow—  
Just pick a quarrel and raise a fight, and leather  
him good and hard,

And I'll take good care that his wretched sheep  
 don't wander a half a yard.  
 It's a five-pound job if you belt him well—do any-  
 thing short of kill,  
 For there isn't a beak on the Castlereagh will fine  
 you for Saltbush Bill."

"I'll take the job," said the fighting man; "and, hot  
 as this cove appears,  
 He'll stand no chance with a bloke like me, what's  
 lived on the game for years;  
 For he's maybe learnt in a boxing school, and  
 sparred for a round or so,  
 But I've fought all hands in a ten-foot ring each  
 night in a travelling show;  
 They earned a pound if they stayed three rounds,  
 and they tried for it every night  
 In a ten-foot ring! Oh, that's the game that teaches  
 a bloke to fight,  
 For they'd rush and clinch—it was Dublin Rules,  
 and we drew no colour line;  
 And they all tried hard for to earn the pound, but  
 they got no pound of mine:  
 If I saw no chance in the opening round I'd slog at  
 their wind, and wait  
 Till an opening came—and it *always* came—and I  
 settled 'em, sure as fate;  
 Left on the ribs and right on the jaw—and, when  
 the chance comes, make sure!  
 And it's there a professional bloke like me gets  
 home on an amateur:

For it's my experience every day, and I make no  
doubt it's yours,  
That a third-class pro is an over-match for the best  
of the amateurs——”  
“Oh, take your swag to the travellers' hut,” said  
Smith, “for you waste your breath;  
You've a first-class chance, if you lose the fight, of  
talking your man to death.  
I'll tell the cook you're to have your grub, and see  
that you eat your fill,  
And come to the scratch all fit and well to leather  
this Saltbush Bill.”

'Twas Saltbush Bill, and his travelling sheep were  
wending their weary way  
On the Main Stock Route, through the Hard Times  
Run, on their six-mile stage a day;  
And he strayed a mile from the Main Stock Route,  
and started to feed along,  
And when Stingy Smith came up Bill said that the  
Route was surveyed wrong;  
And he tried to prove that the sheep had rushed and  
strayed from their camp at night,  
But the fighting man he kicked Bill's dog, and of  
course that meant a fight.

So they sparred and fought, and they shifted ground,  
and never a sound was heard  
But the thudding fists on their brawny ribs, and the  
seconds' muttered word,  
Till the fighting man shot home his left on the ribs  
with a mighty clout,  
And his right flashed up with a half-arm blow—and  
Saltbush Bill “went out.”

He fell face down, and towards the blow; and their  
hearts with fear were filled,  
For he lay as still as a fallen tree, and they thought  
that he must be killed.

So Stingy Smith and the fighting man, they lifted  
him from the ground,  
And sent back home for a brandy-flask, and they  
slowly fetched him round;  
But his head was bad, and his jaw was hurt—in fact,  
he could scarcely speak—  
So they let him spell till he got his wits; and he  
camped on the run a week,  
While the travelling sheep went here and there,  
wherever they liked to stray,  
Till Saltbush Bill was fit once more for the track  
to the Castlereagh.

Then Stingy Smith he wrote a note, and gave to the  
fighting man:  
'Twas writ to the boss of the neighbouring run, and  
thus the missive ran:  
"The man with this is a fighting man, one Stiffener  
Joe by name;  
He came near murdering Saltbush Bill, and I found  
it a costly game:  
But it's worth your while to employ the chap, for  
there isn't the slightest doubt  
You'll have no trouble from Saltbush Bill while this  
man hangs about."

But an answer came by the next week's mail, with news that might well appal:

"The man you sent with a note is not a fighting man at all!

He has shaved his beard, and has cut his hair, but I spotted him at a look;

He is Tom Devine, who has worked for years for Saltbush Bill as cook.

Bill coached him up in the fighting yarn, and taught him the tale by rote,

And they shammed to fight, and they got your grass, and divided your five-pound note.

'Twas a clean take-in; and you'll find it wise—'twill save you a lot of pelf—

When next you're hiring a fighting man, just fight him a round yourself."

And the teamsters out on the Castlereagh, when they meet with a week of rain,

And the waggon sinks to its axle-tree, deep down in the black-soil plain,

When the bullocks wade in a sea of mud, and strain at the load of wool,

And the cattle-dogs at the bullocks' heels are biting to make them pull,

When the off-side driver flays the team, and curses them while he flogs,

And the air is thick with the language used, and the clamour of men and dogs—

The teamsters say, as they pause to rest and moisten each hairy throat,

They wish they could swear like Stingy Smith when he read that neighbour's note.

## HARD LUCK

I left the course, and by my side  
 There walked a ruined tout—  
**A** hungry creature, evil-eyed,  
 Who poured this story out.

“You see,” he said, “there came a swell  
 To Kensington to-day,  
 And, if I picked the winners well,  
 A crown at least he’d pay.

“I picked three winners straight, I did;  
 I filled his purse with pelf,  
 And then he gave me half-a-quid  
 To back one for myself.

“A half-a-quid to me he cast—  
 I wanted it indeed;  
 So help me Bob, for two days past  
 I haven’t had a feed.

“But still I thought my luck was in,  
 I couldn’t go astray—  
 I put it all on Little Min,  
 And lost it straightaway.

“I haven’t got a bite or bed,  
 I’m absolutely stuck;  
 So keep this lesson in your head:  
 Don’t over-trust your luck!”

The folks went homeward, near and far,  
The tout, oh! where was he?  
Ask where the empty boilers are  
Beside the Circular Quay.

## SONG OF THE FEDERATION

As the nations sat together, grimly waiting—  
The fierce and ancient nations battle-scarred—  
Grown grey in their lusting and their hating,  
Ever armed and ever ready keeping guard,  
Through the tumult of their warlike preparation  
And the half-stilled clamour of the drums  
Came a voice crying, “Lo, a new-made Nation,  
To her place in the sisterhood she comes!”

And she came. She was beautiful as morning,  
With the bloom of the roses on her mouth,  
Like a young queen lavishly adorning  
Her charms with the splendours of the South.  
And the fierce old nations, looking on her,  
Said, “Nay, surely she were quickly overthrown;  
Hath she strength for the burden laid upon her,  
Hath she power to protect and guard her own?”

Then she spoke, and her voice was clear and  
ringing  
In the ears of the nations old and grey,  
Saying, “Hark, and ye shall hear my children  
singing  
Their war-song in countries far away.

They are strangers to the tumult of the battle,  
 They are few, but their hearts are very strong,  
 'Twas but yesterday they called unto the cattle,  
 But they now sing Australia's marching song."

## SONG OF THE AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION.

*For the honour of Australia, our Mother,  
 Side by side with our kin from over sea,  
 We have fought and we have tested one another,  
 And enrolled among the brotherhood are we.*

*There was never post of danger but we sought it  
 In the fighting, through the fire, and through the flood.  
 There was never prize so costly but we bought it,  
 Though we paid for its purchase with our blood.*

*Was there any road too rough for us to travel?  
 Was there any path too far for us to tread?  
 You can track us by the blood drops on the gravel  
 On the roads that we milestoned with our dead!*

*And for you. O our young and anxious mother,  
 O'er your great gains keeping watch and ward,  
 Neither fearing nor despising any other,  
 We will hold your possessions with the sword.*

Then they passed to the place of world-long  
 sleeping,  
 The grey-clad figures with their dead,  
 To the sound of their woman softly weeping  
 And the Dead March moaning at their head:

And the Nations, as the grim procession ended,  
Whispered, "Child, thou hast seen the price we  
pay;  
From War may we ever be defended,  
Kneel thee down, new-made Sister—Let us  
Pray!"

## OLD AUSTRALIAN WAYS

The London lights are far abeam  
Behind a bank of cloud,  
Along the shore the gaslights gleam,  
The gale is piping loud;  
And down the Channel, groping blind,  
We drive her through the haze  
Towards the land we left behind—  
The good old land of "never mind,"  
And old Australian ways.

The narrow ways of English folk  
Are not for such as we;  
They bear the long-accustomed yoke  
Of staid conservancy:  
But all our roads are new and strange,  
And through our blood there runs  
The vagabonding love of change  
That drove us westward of the range  
And westward of the suns.

The city folk go to and fro  
Behind a prison's bars,  
They never feel the breezes blow  
And never see the stars;

They never hear in blossomed trees  
 The music low and sweet  
 Of wild birds making melodies,  
 Nor catch the little laughing breeze  
 That whispers in the wheat.

Our fathers came of roving stock  
 That could not fixed abide:  
 And we have followed field and flock  
 Since e'er we learnt to ride;  
 By miner's camp and shearing shed,  
 In land of heat and drought,  
 We followed where our fortunes led,  
 With fortune always on ahead  
 And always farther out.

The wind is in the barley-grass,  
 The wattles are in bloom;  
 The breezes greet us as they pass  
 With honey-sweet perfume;  
 The parakeets go screaming by  
 With flash of golden wing,  
 And from the swamp the wild-ducks cry  
 Their long-drawn note of revelry,  
 Rejoicing at the Spring.

So throw the weary pen aside  
 And let the papers rest,  
 For we must saddle up and ride  
 Towards the blue hill's breast:

And we must travel far and fast  
Across their rugged maze,  
To find the Spring of Youth at last,  
And call back from the buried past  
The old Australian ways.

When Clancy took the drover's track  
In years of long ago,  
He drifted to the outer back  
Beyond the Overflow;  
By rolling plain and rocky shelf,  
With stockwhip in his hand,  
He reached at last (oh, lucky elf!)  
The Town of Come-and-Help-Yourself  
In Rough-and-Ready Land.

And if it be that you would know  
The tracks he used to ride,  
Then you must saddle up and go  
Beyond the Queensland side,  
Beyond the reach of rule or law,  
To ride the long day through,  
In Nature's homestead—filled with awe,  
You then might see what Clancy saw  
And know what Clancy knew.

BALLAD OF THE *CALLIOPE*

By the far Samoan shore,  
Where the league-long rollers pour  
All the wash of the Pacific on the coral-guarded  
bay,

Riding lightly at their ease,  
 In the calm of tropic seas,  
 The three great nations' warships at their anchors  
 proudly lay.

Riding lightly, head to wind,  
 With the coral reefs behind,  
 Three German and three Yankee ships were  
 mirrored in the blue;  
 And on one ship unfurled  
 Was the flag that rules the world—  
 For on the old *Calliope* the flag of England flew.

When the gentle off-shore breeze,  
 That had scarcely stirred the trees,  
 Dropped down to utter stillness, and the glass began  
 to fall,  
 Away across the main  
 Lowered the coming hurricane,  
 And far away to seaward hung the cloud-wrack like  
 a pall.

If the word had passed around,  
 "Let us move to safer ground;  
 Let us steam away to seaward"—then this tale were  
 not to tell!  
 But each Captain seemed to say  
 "If the others stay, I stay!"  
 And they lingered at their moorings till the shades  
 of evening fell.

Then the cloud-wrack neared them fast,  
 And there came a sudden blast,  
 And the hurricane came leaping down a thousand  
 miles of main!

Like a lion on its prey,  
Leapt the storm fiend on the bay,  
And the vessels shook and shivered as their cables  
    felt the strain.

As the surging seas came by,  
    That were running mountains high,  
The vessels started dragging, drifting slowly to the  
    lee;  
    And the darkness of the night  
    Hid the coral reefs from sight,  
And the Captains dared not risk the chance to grope  
    their way to sea.

In the dark they dared not shift!  
    They were forced to wait and drift;  
All hands stood by uncertain would the anchors hold  
    or no.  
    But the men on deck could see,  
    If a chance for them might be,  
There was little chance of safety for the men who  
    were below.

Through that long, long night of dread,  
    While the storm raged overhead,  
They were waiting by their engines, with the furnace  
    fires aroar;  
    So they waited, staunch and true,  
    Though they knew, and well they knew,  
They must drown like rats imprisoned if the vessel  
    touched the shore.

When the grey dawn broke at last,  
 And the long, long night was past,  
 While the hurricane redoubled, lest its prey should  
     steal away,  
 On the rocks, all smashed and strown,  
     Were the German vessels thrown,  
 While the Yankees, swamped and helpless, drifted  
     shorewards down the bay.

Then at last spoke Captain Kane,  
     "All our anchors are in vain,  
 And the Germans and the Yankees they have drifted  
     to the lee!  
 Cut the cables at the bow!  
     We must trust the engines now!  
 Give her steam, and let her have it, lads! we'll fight  
     her out to sea!"

And the answer came with cheers  
     From the stalwart engineers,  
 From the grim and grimy firemen at the furnaces  
     below;  
 And above the sullen roar  
     Of the breakers on the shore  
 Came the throbbing of the engines as they laboured  
     to and fro.

If the strain should find a flaw,  
     Should a bolt or rivet draw,  
 Then—God help them! for the vessel were a play-  
     thing in the tide!

With a face of honest cheer  
Quoth an English engineer  
"I will answer for the engines that were built on old  
Thames-side!"

"For the stays and stanchions taut,  
For the rivets truly wrought,  
For the valves that fit their faces as a glove should  
fit the hand.  
Give her every ounce of power;  
If we make a knot an hour  
Then it's way enough to steer her, and we'll drive  
her from the land."

Like a foam-flake tossed and thrown,  
She could barely hold her own,  
While the other ships all helplessly were drifting to  
the lee.  
Through the smother and the rout  
The *Calliope* steamed out—  
And they cheered her from the *Trenton* that was  
foundering in the sea.

Ay! drifting shoreward there,  
All helpless as they were,  
Their vessel hurled upon the reefs as weed ashore  
is hurled,  
Without a thought of fear  
The Yankees raised a cheer—  
A cheer that English-speaking folk should echo  
round the world.

## DO THEY KNOW

Do they know? At the turn to the straight  
Where the favourites fail,  
And every last atom of weight  
Is telling its tale;  
As some grim old stayer hard-pressed  
Runs true to his breed,  
And with head just in front of the rest  
Fights on in the lead;  
When the jockeys are out with the whips,  
With a furlong to go,  
And the backers grow white to the lips—  
Do you think *they* don't know?

Do they know? As they come back to weigh  
In a whirlwind of cheers,  
Though the spurs have left marks of the fray,  
Though the sweat on the ears  
Gathers cold, and they sob with distress  
As they roll up the track,  
They know just as well their success  
As the man on their back.  
As they walk through a dense human lane  
That sways to and fro,  
And cheers them again and again,  
Do you think *they* don't know?

## PASSING OF GUNDAGAI

"I'll introooce a friend!" he said,

"And if you've got a vacant pen  
You'd better take him in the shed  
And start him shearing straight ahead;  
He's one of these here quiet men.

"He never strikes—that ain't his game;

No matter what the others try  
*He* goes on shearing just the same.  
I never rightly knew his name—  
We always call him 'Gundagai' "

Our flashest shearer then had gone

To train a racehorse for a race;  
And, while his sporting fit was on  
He couldn't be relied upon,  
So Gundagai shore in his place.

Alas for man's veracity!

For reputations false and true!  
This Gundagai turned out to be  
For strife and all-round villainy  
The very worst I ever knew!

He started racing Jack Devine,  
And grumbled when I made him stop.  
The pace he showed was extra fine,  
But all those pure-bred ewes of mine  
Were bleeding like a butcher's shop.

He cursed the sheep, he cursed the shed,  
From roof to rafter, floor to shelf;  
As for my mongrel ewes, he said,  
I ought to get a razor-blade  
And shave the blooming things myself.

On Sundays he controlled a "school,"  
And played "two-up" the livelong day;  
And many a young confiding fool  
He shore of his financial wool;  
And when he lost he would not pay.

He organized a shearers' race,  
And "touched" me to provide the prize.  
His pack-horse showed surprising pace  
And won hands down—he was The Ace,  
A well-known racehorse in disguise.

Next day the bruiser of the shed  
Displayed an opal-tinted eye,  
With large contusions on his head,  
He smiled a sickly smile, and said  
He'd "had a cut at Gundagai!"

But, just as we were getting full  
Of Gundagai and all his ways,  
A telegram for "Henry Bull"  
Arrived. Said he, "That's me—all wool!  
Let's see what this here message says."

He opened it; his face grew white,  
He dropped the shears and turned away.

It ran, "Your wife took bad last night;  
Come home at once—no time to write,  
We fear she may not last the day."

He got his cheque—I didn't care  
To dock him for my mangled ewes;  
His store account, we called it square,  
Poor wretch! he had enough to bear,  
Confronted by such dreadful news.

The shearers raised a little purse  
To help a mate, as shearers will,  
"To pay the doctor and the nurse.  
And, if there should be something worse,  
To pay the undertaker's bill."

They wrung his hand in sympathy,  
He rode away without a word,  
His head hung down in misery . . .  
A wanderer hawker passing by  
Was told of what had just occurred.

"Well! that's a curious thing," he said,  
"I've known that feller all his life—  
He's had the loan of this here shed!  
I know his wife ain't nearly dead,  
Because he *hasn't got a wife!*"

• • •  
You should have heard the whipcord crack  
As angry shearers galloped by;  
In vain they tried to fetch him back—  
A little dust along the track  
Was all they saw of "Gundagai."

## THE WARGEILAH HANDICAP

Wargeilah town is very small,  
 There's no cathedral nor a club,  
 In fact the township, all in all,  
 Is just one unpretentious pub;  
 And there, from all the stations round,  
 The local sportsmen can be found.

The sportsmen of Wargeilah-side  
 Are very few but very fit:  
 There's scarcely any sport been tried  
 But they can hold their own at it;  
 In fact, to search their records o'er,  
 They hold their own and something more.

The precincts of Wargeilah town  
 An English new-chum did infest:  
 He used to wander up and down  
 In baggy English breeches drest;  
 His mental aspect seemed to be  
 Just stolid self-sufficiency.

The local sportsmen vainly sought  
 His tranquil calm to counteract,  
 By urging that he should be brought  
 Within the Noxious Creatures Act.  
 "Nay, harm him not," said one more wise,  
 "He is a blessing in disguise!"

"You see, he wants to buy a horse,  
To ride, and hunt, and steeplechase,  
And carry ladies, too, of course,  
And pull a cart, and win a race.  
Good gracious! he must be a flat  
To think he'll get a horse like that!"

"But, since he has so little sense  
And such a lot of cash to burn,  
We'll sell him some experience  
By which alone a fool can learn.  
Suppose we let him have The Trap  
To win Wargeilah Handicap!"

And here, I must explain to you  
That round about Wargeilah run  
There lived a very aged screw  
Whose days of brilliancy were done:  
A grand old warrior in his prime—  
But age will beat us all in time.

A trooper's horse in seasons past  
He did his share to keep the peace,  
But took to falling, and at last  
Was cast for age from the Police.  
A publican at Conroy's Gap  
Bought him and christened him The Trap.

When grass was good and horses dear,  
He changed his owner now and then  
At prices ranging somewhere near  
The neighbourhood of two-pound-ten:  
And manfully he earned his keep  
By yarding cows and ration sheep.

They brought him in from off the grass  
And fed and groomed the old horse up;  
His coat began to shine like glass—  
You'd think he'd win the Melbourne Cup.  
And when they'd got him fat and flash  
They asked the new-chum—fifty—cash!

And when he said the price was high,  
Their indignation knew no bounds.  
They said, "It's seldom you can buy  
A horse like that for fifty pounds!  
We'll refund twenty if The Trap  
Should fail to win the handicap!"

The deed was done, the price was paid,  
The new-chum put the horse in train:  
The local sports were much afraid  
That he would sad experience gain  
By racing with some shearer's hack,  
Who'd beat him half-way round the track.

So, on this guileless English spark  
They did most fervently impress  
That he must keep the matter dark,  
And not let any person guess  
That he was purchasing The Trap  
To win Wargeilah Handicap.

They spoke of "spielers from the Bland,"  
And "champions from the Castlereagh,"  
And gave the youth to understand  
That all of these would stop away,  
And spoil the race, if they should hear  
That they had got The Trap to fear.

"Keep dark! They'll muster thick as flies  
When once the news gets sent around  
We're giving such a splendid prize—  
A Snowdon horse worth fifty pound!  
They'll come right in from Dandaloo,  
And find—that it's a gift to you!"

The race came on—with no display,  
Nor any calling of the card,  
But round about the pub all day  
A crowd of shearers, drinking hard,  
And using language in a strain  
'Twere flattery to call profane.

Our hero, dressed in silk attire—  
Blue jacket and a scarlet cap—  
With boots that shone like flames of fire,  
Now did his canter on The Trap,  
And walked him up and round about,  
Until the other steeds came out.

He eyed them with a haughty look,  
But saw a sight that caught his breath!  
It was Ah John! the Chinee cook!  
In boots and breeches! pale as death!  
Tied with a rope, like any sack,  
Upon a piebald pony's back!

The next, a colt—all mud and burrs,  
Half-broken, with a black boy up,  
Who said, "You gim'me pair o' spurs,  
I win the bloomin' Melbourne Cup!"  
These two were to oppose The Trap  
For the Wargeilah Handicap!

They're off! The colt whipped down his head,  
 And humped his back, and gave a squeal,  
 And bucked into the drinking shed,  
 Revolving like a Catherine wheel!  
 Men ran like rats! The atmosphere  
 Was filled with oaths and pints of beer!

But up the course the bold Ah John  
 Beside The Trap raced neck and neck:  
 The boys had tied him firmly on,  
 Which ultimately proved his wreck;  
 The saddle turned, and, like a clown,  
 He rode some distance upside-down.

His legs around the horse were tied,  
 His feet towards the heavens were spread,  
 He swung and bumped at every stride  
 And ploughed the ground up with his head!  
 And when they rescued him, The Trap  
 Had won Wargeliah Handicap!

And no enquiries we could make  
 Could tell by what false statements swayed  
 Ah John was led to undertake  
 A task so foreign to his trade!  
 He only smiled and said, "Hoo Ki!  
 I stop topside, I win all li'!"

But never in Wargeilah Town  
 Was heard so eloquent a cheer  
 As when the President came down,  
 And toasted, in Colonial beer,  
 "The finest rider on the course!  
 The winner of the Snowdon Horse!"

“You go and get your prize,” he said;  
“He’s with a wild mob, somewhere round  
The mountains near the Watershed;  
He’s honestly worth fifty pound—  
A noble horse, indeed, to win,  
But none of *us* can run him in!

“We’ve chased him poor, we’ve chased him fat,  
We’ve run him till our horses dropped;  
But by such obstacles as that  
A man like you will not be stopped;  
You’ll go and yard him any day,  
So here’s your health! Hooray! Hooray!”

The day wound up with booze and blow  
And fights till all were well content.  
But of the new-chum all I know  
Is shown by this advertisement—  
“For Sale, the well-known racehorse Trap.  
He won Wargeilah Handicap!”

## ANY OTHER TIME

All of us play our very best game—  
Any other time.  
Golf or billiards, it’s all the same—  
Any other time.  
Lose a match and you always say,  
“Just my luck! I was ‘off’ to-day!  
I could have beaten him quite half-way—  
Any other time!”

After a fiver you ought to go—  
Any other time.  
Every man that you ask says "Oh,  
Any *other* time.  
Lend you a fiver? I'd lend you two,  
But I'm overdrawn and my bills are due,  
Wish you'd ask me—now, mind you do—  
Any other time!"

Fellows will ask you out to dine—  
Any other time.  
"Not to-night for we're twenty-nine—  
Any other time.  
Not to-morrow, for cook's on strike;  
Not next day, I'll be out on the bike;  
Just drop in whenever you like  
Any other time!"

Seasick passengers like the sea—  
Any other time.  
"Something . . I ate . . disagreed . . with me!  
Any other time.  
Ocean-travelling is . . simply bliss,  
Must be my . . liver . . has gone amiss . .  
'Why, I would . . laugh . . at a sea . . like this—  
Any other time!"

Most of us mean to be better men—  
Any other time:  
Regular upright characters then—  
Any other time.

Yet somehow as the years go by  
Still we gamble and drink and lie,  
When it comes to the last we'll want to die—  
Any other time!

## THE LAST TRUMP

"You led the trump," the old man said  
With fury in his eye,  
"And yet you hope my girl to wed!  
Young man! your hopes of love are fled,  
'Twere better she should die!

"My sweet young daughter sitting there,  
So innocent and plump!  
You don't suppose that she would care  
To wed an outlawed man who'd dare  
To lead the thirteenth trump!

"If you had drawn their leading spade  
It meant a certain win!  
But no! by Pembroke's mighty shade  
The thirteenth trump you went and played  
And let their diamonds in!

"My girl, return at my command  
His presents in a lump!  
Return his ring! For, understand,  
No man is fit to hold your hand  
Who leads a thirteenth trump!

"But hold! Give every man his due  
 And every dog his day.  
 Speak up and say what made you do  
 This dreadful thing—that is, if you  
 Have anything to say!"

He spoke. "I meant at first," said he,  
 "To give their spades a bump,  
 Or lead the hearts; but then you see  
 I thought against us there might be,  
 Perhaps, a fourteenth trump!"

They buried him at dawn of day  
 Beside a ruined stump:  
 And there he sleeps the hour away  
 And waits for Gabriel to play  
 The last—the fourteenth—trump.

### TAR AND FEATHERS

Oh! the circus swooped down  
 On the Narrabri town,  
 For the Narrabri populace moneyed are;  
 And the showman he smiled  
 At the folk he beguiled  
 To come all the distance from Gunnedah.

But a juvenile smart,  
 Who objected to "part,"  
 Went in on the nod, and to do it he  
 Crawled in through a crack  
 In the tent at the back,  
 For the boy had no slight ingenuity.

And says he with a grin,  
"That's the way to get in;  
But I reckon I'd better be quiet or  
They'll spificate me,"  
And he chuckled, for he  
Had the loan of the circus proprietor.

But the showman astute  
On that wily galoot  
Soon dropped—you'll be thinking he leathered  
him—  
Not he; with a grim  
Sort of humorous whim,  
He took him and tarred him and feathered him.

Says he, "You can go  
Round the world with a show,  
And knock every Injun and Arab wry;  
With your name and your trade  
On the posters displayed,  
The feathered what-is-it from Narrabri."

Next day for his freak  
By a Narrabri Beak,  
He was jawed with a deal of verbosity;  
For his only appeal  
Was "professional zeal"—  
He wanted another monstrosity.

Said his Worship, "Begob!  
You are fined forty bob,  
And six shillin's costs to the clurk!" he says.  
And the Narrabri joy,  
Half bird and half boy,  
Has a "down" on himself and on circuses.

## IT'S GRAND

It's grand to be a squatter  
And sit upon a post,  
And watch your little ewes and lambs  
A-giving up the ghost.

It's grand to be a "cockie"  
With wife and kids to keep,  
And find an all-wise Providence  
Has mustered all your sheep.

It's grand to be a Western man,  
With shovel in your hand,  
To dig your little homestead out  
From underneath the sand.

It's grand to be a shearer  
Along the Darling-side,  
And pluck the wool from stinking sheep  
That some days since have died.

It's grand to be a rabbit  
And breed till all is blue,  
And then to die in heaps because  
There's nothing left to chew.

It's grand to be a Minister  
And travel like a swell,  
And tell the Central District folk  
To go to—Inverell.

It's grand to be a socialist  
And lead the bold array  
That marches to prosperity  
At seven bob a day.

It's grand to be an unemployed  
And lie in the Domain,  
And wake up every second day—  
And go to sleep again.

It's grand to borrow English tin  
To pay for wharves and docks,  
And then to find it isn't in  
The little money-box.

It's grand to be a democrat  
And toady to the mob,  
For fear that if you told the truth  
They'd hunt you from your job.

It's grand to be a lot of things  
In this fair Southern land,  
But if the Lord would send us rain,  
That would, indeed, be grand!

### OUT OF SIGHT

They held a polo meeting at a little country town,  
And all the local sportsmen came to win themselves  
renown.

There came two strangers with a horse, and I am  
much afraid  
They both belonged to what is called "the take-you-  
down brigade."

They said their horse could jump like fun, and asked  
an amateur  
To ride him in the steeplechase, and told him they  
were sure  
The last time round he'd sail away with such a  
swallow's flight  
The rest would never see him go—he'd finish out of  
sight.

So out he went; and, when folk saw the amateur  
was up,  
Some local genius called the race "the Dude-in  
Danger Cup."  
The horse was known as "Who's Afraid," by  
"Panic" from "The Fright"—  
But still his owners told the jock he'd finish out of  
sight.

And so he did; for Who's Afraid, without the least  
pretence,  
Disposed of him by rushing through the very second  
fence;  
And when they ran the last time round the prophecy  
was right—  
For he was in the ambulance, and safely "out of  
sight."

## THE ROAD TO OLD MAN'S TOWN

The fields of youth are filled with flowers,  
The wine of youth is strong:  
What need have we to count the hours?  
The summer days are long.

But soon we find to our dismay  
That we are drifting down  
The barren slopes that fall away  
Towards the foothills grim and grey  
That lead to Old Man's Town.

And marching with us on the track  
Full many friends we find:  
We see them looking sadly back  
For those who've dropped behind.

But God forfend a fate so dread—  
*Alone* to travel down  
The dreary road we all must tread,  
With faltering steps and whitening head,  
The road to Old Man's Town!

## THE OLD TIMER'S STEEPLECHASE

The sheep were shorn and the wool went down  
At the time of our local racing:  
And I'd earned a spell—I was burnt and brown—

So I rolled my swag for a trip to town  
And a look at the steeplechasing.

'Twas rough and ready—an uncleared course  
As rough as the blacks had found it;  
With barbed-wire fences, topped with gorse,  
And a water-jump that would drown a horse,  
And the steeple three times round it.

There was never a fence the tracks to guard,—  
Some straggling posts defined 'em:  
And the day was hot, and the drinking hard,  
Till none of the stewards could see a yard  
Before nor yet behind 'em!

But the bell was rung and the nags were out,  
Excepting an old outsider  
Whose trainer started an awful rout,  
For his boy had gone on a drinking bout  
And left him without a rider.

"Is there not one man in the crowd," he cried,  
"In the whole of the crowd so clever,  
Is there not one man that will take a ride  
On the old white horse from the Northern side  
That was bred on the Mooki River?"

'Twas an old white horse that they called The Cow,  
And a cow would look well beside him;  
But I was pluckier then than now  
(And I wanted excitement anyhow),  
So at last I agreed to ride him.

And the trainer said, "Well, he's dreadful slow,  
And he hasn't a chance whatever;  
But I'm stony broke, so it's time to show  
A trick or two that the trainers know  
Who train by the Mooki River.

"The first time round at the further side,  
With the trees and the scrub about you,  
Just pull behind them and run out wide  
And then dodge into the scrub and hide,  
And let them go round without you.

"At the third time round, for the final spin  
With the pace and the dust to blind 'em,  
They'll never notice if you chip in  
For the last half-mile—you'll be sure to win,  
And they'll think you raced behind 'em.

"At the water-jump you may have to swim—  
He hasn't a hope to clear it,  
Unless he skims like the swallows skim  
At full speed over—but not for him!  
He'll never go next or near it.

"But don't you worry—just plunge across,  
For he swims like a well-trained setter.  
Then hide away in the scrub and gorse  
The rest will be far ahead, of course—  
The further ahead the better.

"You must rush the jumps in the last half-round  
For fear that he might refuse 'em;  
He'll try to baulk with you, I'll be bound;

Take whip and spurs to the mean old hound,  
And don't be afraid to use 'em.

"At the final round, when the field are slow  
And you are quite fresh to meet 'em,  
Sit down, and hustle him all you know  
With the whip and spurs, and he'll have to go—  
Remember, you've *got* to beat 'em!"

The flag went down, and we seemed to fly,  
And we made the timbers shiver  
Of the first big fence, as the stand flashed by,  
And I caught the ring of the trainer's cry:  
"Go on, for the Mooki River!"

I jammed him in with a well-packed crush,  
And recklessly—out for slaughter—  
Like a living wave over fence and brush  
We swept and swung with a flying rush,  
Till we came to the dreaded water.

Ha, ha! I laugh at it now to think  
Of the way I contrived to work it.  
Shut in amongst them, before you'd wink,  
He found himself on the water's brink,  
With never a chance to shirk it!

The thought of the horror he felt beguiles  
The heart of this grizzled rover!  
He gave a snort you could hear for miles,  
And a spring would have cleared the Channel  
Isles,  
And carried me safely over!

Then we neared the scrub, and I pulled him back  
In the shade where the gum-leaves quiver:  
And I waited there in the shadows black  
While the rest of the horses, round the track,  
Went on like a rushing river!

At the second round, as the field swept by,  
I saw that the pace was telling;  
But on they thundered, and by-and-by  
As they passed the stand I could hear the cry  
Of the folk in the distance, yelling!

Then the last time round! And the hoofbeats rang!  
And I said, "Well, it's now or never!"  
And out on the heels of the throng I sprang,  
And the spurs bit deep and the whipcord sang  
As I rode. For the Mooki River!

We raced for home in a cloud of dust  
And the curses rose in chorus.  
'Twas flog, and hustle, and jump you must!  
And The Cow ran well—but to my disgust  
There was one got home before us.

'Twas a big black horse, that I had not seen  
In the part of the race I'd ridden;  
And his coat was cool and his rider clean—  
And I thought that perhaps I had not been  
The only one that had hidden.

And the trainer came with a visage blue  
With rage, when the race concluded:  
Said he, "I thought you'd have pulled us through,

But the man on the black horse planted too,  
*And nearer to home than you did!"*

Alas to think that those times so gay  
Have vanished and passed for ever!  
You don't believe in the yarn, you say?  
Why, man, 'twas a matter of every day  
When we raced on the Mooki River!

#### IN THE STABLE

What! you don't like him; well, maybe—we all have  
our fancies, of course:  
Brumby to look at, you reckon? Well, no; he's a  
thoroughbred horse;  
Sired by a son of old Panic—look at his ears and  
his head—  
Lop-eared and Roman-nosed, ain't he?—well, that's  
how the Panics are bred.  
Gluttonous, ugly and lazy, rough as a tip-cart to  
ride,  
Yet if you offered a sovereign apiece for the hairs  
on his hide  
That wouldn't buy him, nor twice that; while I've a  
pound to the good,  
This here old stager stays by me and lives like a  
thoroughbred should:  
Hunt him away from his bedding, and sit yourself  
down by the wall,  
Till you hear how the old fellow saved me from  
Gilbert, O'Meally and Hall.

Gilbert and Hall and O'Meally, back in the bush-ranging days,  
Made themselves kings of the district—ruled it in old-fashioned ways—  
Robbing the coach and the escort, stealing our horses at night,  
Calling sometimes at the homesteads and giving the women a fright:  
Came to the station one morning (and why they did this no one knows)  
Took a brood mare from the paddock—wanting some fun, I suppose—  
Fastened a bucket beneath her, hung by a strap round her flank,  
Then turned her loose in the timber back of the seven-mile tank.

Go? She went mad! She went tearing and screaming with fear through the trees,  
While the curst bucket beneath her was banging her flanks and her knees.  
Bucking and racing and screaming she ran to the back of the run,  
Killed herself there in a gully; by God, but they paid for their fun!  
Paid for it dear, for the black-boys found tracks, and the bucket, and all,  
And I swore that I'd live to get even with Gilbert, O'Meally and Hall.

Day after day then I chased them—'course they had  
friends on the sly,  
Friends who were willing to sell them to those who  
were willing to buy.  
Early one morning we found them in camp at the  
Cockatoo Farm;  
One of us shot at O'Meally and wounded him under  
the arm:  
Ran them for miles in the ranges, till Hall, with his  
horse fairly beat,  
Took to the rocks and we lost him—the others made  
good their retreat.

It was war to the knife then, I tell you, and once,  
on the door of my shed,  
They nailed up a notice that offered a hundred  
reward for my head!  
Then we heard they were gone from the district;  
they stuck up a coach in the West,  
And I rode by myself in the paddocks, just taking  
a bit of a rest,  
Riding this colt as a youngster—awkward, half-  
broken and shy,  
He wheeled round one day on a sudden; I looked,  
but I couldn't see why—  
But I soon found out why, for before me the hillside  
rose up like a wall,  
And there on the top with their rifles were Gilbert,  
O'Meally and Hall!

'Twas a good three-mile run to the homestead—bad going, with plenty of trees—  
So I gathered the youngster together, and gripped at his ribs with my knees.  
'Twas a mighty poor chance to escape them! It puts a man's nerve to the test  
On a half-broken colt to be hunted by the best mounted men in the West.  
But the half-broken colt was a racehorse! He lay down to work with a will.  
Flashed through the scrub like a clean-skin—by heavens, we *flew* down the hill!  
Over a twenty-foot gully he swept with the spring of a deer,  
And they fired as we jumped, but they missed me—a bullet sang close to my ear—  
And the jump gained us ground, for they shirked it: but I saw as we raced through the gap  
That the rails at the homestead were fastened—I was caught like a rat in a trap.  
Fenced with barbed wire was the paddock—barbed wire that would cut like a knife—  
How was a youngster to clear it that never had jumped in his life?  
  
Bang went a rifle behind me—the colt gave a spring, he was hit;  
Straight at the sliprails I rode him—I felt him take hold of the bit;  
Never a foot to the right or the left did he swerve in his stride,  
Awkward and frightened, but honest, the sort it's a pleasure to ride!

Straight at the rails, where they'd fastened barbed  
 wire on the top of the post,  
 Rose like a stag and went over, with hardly a scratch  
 at the most;  
 Into the homestead I darted, and snatched down my  
 gun from the wall,  
 And I tell you I made them step lively, Gilbert,  
 O'Meally and Hall.

Yes! There's the mark of the bullet—he's got it  
 inside of him yet,  
 Mixed up somehow with his victuals; but, bless you,  
 he don't seem to fret!  
 Gluttonous, ugly, and lazy—eats any thing he can  
 bite;  
 Now, let us shut up the stable, and bid the old  
 fellow good night.  
 Ah! we can't breed 'em, the sort that were bred  
 when we old uns were young . . . .  
 Yes, as I said, these bushrangers, none of 'em lived  
 to be hung.  
 Gilbert was shot by the troopers, Hall was betrayed  
 by his friend,  
 Campbell disposed of O'Meally, bringing the lot to  
 an end.  
 But you can talk about riding—I've ridden a lot in  
 the past—  
 Wait till there's rifles behind you, you'll know what  
 it means to go fast!  
 I've steeplechased, raced, and "run horses," but I  
 think the most dashing of all  
 Was the ride when that old fellow saved me from  
 Gilbert, O'Meally and Hall!

## "HE GIVETH HIS BELOVED SLEEP"

The long day passes with its load of sorrow:  
In slumber deep  
I lay me down to rest until to-morrow—  
Thank God for sleep.

Thank God for all respite from weary toiling,  
From cares that creep  
Across our lives like evil shadows, spoiling  
God's kindly sleep.

We plough and sow, and, as the hours grow later,  
We strive to reap,  
And build our barns, and hope to build them greater  
Before we sleep.

We toil and strain and strive with one another  
In hopes to heap  
Some greater share of profit than our brother  
Before we sleep.

What will it profit that with tears or laughter  
Our watch we keep?  
Beyond it all there lies the Great Hereafter!  
Thank God for sleep!

For, at the last, beseeching Christ to save us,  
We turn with deep  
Heart-felt thanksgiving unto God, who gave us  
The Gift of Sleep.

## DRIVER SMITH

'Twas Driver Smith of Battery A was anxious to see  
a fight;

He thought of the Transvaal all the day, he thought  
of it all the night—

"Well, if the battery's left behind, I'll go to the  
war," says he,

"I'll go a-driving an ambulance in the ranks of the  
A.M.C.

"I'm fairly sick of these here parades—it's want of  
a change that kills—

A-charging the Randwick Rifle Range and aiming at  
Surry Hills.

And I think if I go with the ambulance I'm certain  
to find a show,

For they have to send the Medical men wherever  
the troops can go.

"Wherever the rifle bullets flash and the Maxims  
raise a din,

It's there you'll find the Medical men a-raking the  
wounded in—

A-raking 'em in like human flies—and a driver smart  
like me

Will find some scope for his extra skill in the ranks  
of the A.M.C."

So Driver Smith he went to the war a-cracking his  
driver's whip,

From ambulance to collecting base they showed him  
his regular trip.

And he said to the boys that were marching past,  
as he gave his whip a crack,  
"You'll walk yourselves to the fight," says he—  
"Lord spare me, I'll drive you back."

Now, the fight went on in the Transvaal hills for the  
half of a day or more,  
And Driver Smith he worked his trip—all aboard for  
the seat of war!  
He took his load from the stretcher men and hurried  
'em homeward fast  
Till he heard a sound that he knew full well—a  
battery rolling past.

He heard the clink of the leading chains and the  
roll of the guns behind—  
He heard the crack of the drivers' whips, and he  
says to 'em, "Strike me blind,  
I'll miss me trip with this ambulance, although I  
don't care to shirk,  
But I'll take the car off the line to-day and follow  
the guns at work."

Then up the Battery Colonel came a-cursing 'em  
black in the face.  
"Sit down and shift 'em, you drivers there, and  
gallop 'em into place."  
So off the Battery rolled and swung, a-going a  
merry dance,  
And holding his own with the leading gun goes  
Smith with his ambulance.

They opened fire on the mountain side, a-peppering  
by and large,  
When over the hill above their flank the Boers came  
down at the charge;  
They rushed the guns with a daring rush, a-volleying  
left and right,  
And Driver Smith with his ambulance moved up to  
the edge of the fight.

The gunners stuck to their guns like men, and fought  
as the wild cats fight,  
For a Battery man don't leave his gun with ever a  
hope in sight;  
But the bullets sang and the Mausers cracked and  
the Battery men gave way,  
Till Driver Smith with his ambulance drove into the  
thick of the fray.

He saw the head of the Transvaal troop a-thundering  
to and fro,  
A hard old face with a monkey beard—a face that he  
seemed to know;  
"Now, who's that leader?" said Driver Smith. "I've  
seen him before to-day.  
Why, bless my heart, but it's Kruger's self," and he  
jumped for him straight away.

He collared old Kruger round the waist and hustled  
him into the van.  
It wasn't according to stretcher drill for raising a  
wounded man;

But he forced him in and said, "All aboard, we're off  
for a little ride,  
And you'll have the car to yourself," says he, "I  
reckon we're full inside."

He wheeled his team on the mountain side and set  
'em a merry pace,  
A-galloping over the rocks and stones, and a lot of  
the Boers gave chase;  
But Driver Smith had a fairish start, and he said to  
the Boers, "Good-day,  
You have Buckley's chance for to catch a man that  
was trained in Battery A."

He drove his team to the hospital and said to the  
P.M.O.,  
"Beg pardon, sir, but I missed a trip, mistaking the  
way to go;  
And Kruger came to the ambulance and asked could  
we spare a bed,  
So I fetched him here, and we'll take him home to  
show for a bob a head."

So the word went round to the English troops to  
say they need fight no more,  
For Driver Smith with his ambulance had ended the  
blooming war:  
And in London now at the music halls he's starring  
it every night,  
And drawing a hundred pounds a week to tell how  
he won the fight.

THERE'S ANOTHER BLESSED HORSE  
FELL DOWN

When you're lying in your hammock, sleeping soft  
and sleeping sound,  
Without a care or trouble on your mind,  
And there's nothing to disturb you but the engines  
going round,  
And you're dreaming of the girl you left behind;  
In the middle of your joys you'll be wakened by a  
noise  
And a clatter on the deck above your crown,  
And you'll hear the corporal shout, as he turns the  
picket out,  
"There's another blessed horse fell down."

You can see 'em in the morning, when you're  
cleaning out the stall,  
A-leaning on the railings nearly dead,  
And you reckon by the evening they'll be pretty sure  
to fall,  
And you curse them as you tumble into bed.  
Oh, you'll hear it pretty soon, "Pass the word for  
Denny Moon,  
There's a horse here throwing handsprings like a  
clown;"  
And it's shove the others back, or he'll cripple half  
the pack;  
There's another blessed horse fell down."

And when the war is over and the fighting all is done,

And you're all at home with medals on your chest,  
And you've learnt to sleep so soundly that the firing  
of a gun

At your bedside wouldn't rob you of your rest;  
As you lie in slumber deep, if your wife walks in  
her sleep,

And tumbles down the stairs and breaks her  
crown,

Oh, it won't awaken you, for you'll say, "It's nothing  
new,

It's another blessed horse fell down."

## ON THE TREK

Oh, the weary, weary journey on the trek, day after  
day,

With sun above and silent veldt below;  
And our hearts keep turning homeward to the  
youngsters far away,

And the homestead where the climbing roses grow.  
Shall we see the flats grow golden with the ripening  
of the grain?

Shall we hear the parrots calling on the bough?  
Ah! the weary months of marching ere we hear  
them call again,

For we're going on a long job now.

In the drowsy days on escort, riding slowly half asleep,

With the endless line of waggons stretching back,  
While the khaki soldiers travel like a mob of travelling sheep,

Plodding silent on the never-ending track,  
While the constant snap and sniping of the foe you never see

Makes you wonder will your turn come—when and how?

As the Mauser ball hums past you like a vicious kind of bee—

Oh! we're going on a long job now.

When the dash and the excitement and the novelty are dead,

And you've seen a load of wounded once or twice,  
Or you've watched your old mate dying, with the vultures overhead—

Well, you wonder if the war is worth the price.  
And down along Monaro now they're starting out to shear,

I can picture the excitement and the row;  
But they'll miss me on the Lachlan when they call the roll this year,

For we're going on a long job now.

## THE LAST PARADE

With never a sound of trumpet,  
With never a flag displayed,  
The last of the old campaigners  
Lined up for the last parade.

Weary they were and battered,  
Shoeless, and knocked about;  
From under their ragged forelocks  
Their hungry eyes looked out.

And they watched as the old commander  
Read out to the cheering men  
The Nation's thanks, and the orders  
To carry them home again.

And the last of the old campaigners,  
Sinevy, lean, and spare—  
He spoke for his hungry comrades:  
"Have we not done our share?

"Starving and tired and thirsty  
We limped on the blazing plain;  
And after a long night's picket  
You saddled us up again.

"We froze on the wind-swept kopjes  
When the frost lay snowy-white.  
Never a halt in the daytime,  
Never a rest at night!

"We knew when the rifles rattled  
 From the hillside bare and brown,  
 And over our weary shoulders  
 We felt warm blood run down.

"As we turned for the stretching gallop,  
 Crushed to the earth with weight;  
 But we carried our riders through it—  
 Sometimes, perhaps, too late.

"Steel! We were steel to stand it—  
 We that have lasted through,  
 We that are old campaigners  
 Pitiful, poor, and few.

"Over the sea you brought us,  
 Over the leagues of foam:  
 Now we have served you fairly  
 Will you not take us home?

"Home to the Hunter River,  
 To the flats where the lucerne grows;  
 Home where the Murrumbidgee  
 Runs white with the melted snows.

"This is a small thing, surely!  
 Will not you give command  
 That the last of the old campaigners  
 Go back to their native land?"

They looked at the grim commander,  
 But never a sign he made.  
 "Dismiss!" and the old campaigners  
 Moved off from their last parade.

## JOHNNY BOER

Men fight all shapes and sizes as the racing horses  
run,

And no man knows his courage till he stands before  
a gun.

At mixed-up fighting, hand to hand, and clawing  
men about

They reckon Fuzzy-Wuzzy is the hottest fighter out.  
But Fuzzy gives himself away—his style is out of  
date,

He charges like a driven grouse that rushes on its  
fate;

You've nothing in the world to do but pump him  
full of lead:

But when you're fighting Johnnie Boer you have to  
use your head;

He don't believe in front attacks or charging at the  
run,

He fights you from a kopje with his little Maxim  
gun.

For when the Lord He made the earth, it seems  
uncommon clear,

He gave the job of Africa to some good engineer,

Who started building fortresses on fashions of his  
own—

Lunettes, redoubts, and counterscarps all made of  
rock and stone.

The Boer needs only bring a gun, for ready to his  
hand

He finds these heaven-built fortresses all scattered  
through the land;

And there he sits and winks his eye and wheels his gun about,  
And we must charge across the plain to hunt the beggar out.  
It ain't a game that grows on us—there's lots of better fun  
Than charging at old Johnny with his little Maxim gun.

On rocks a goat could scarcely climb, steep as the walls of Troy,  
He wheels a four-point-seven about as easy as a toy;  
With bullocks yoked and drag-ropes manned, he lifts her up the rocks  
And shifts her every now and then, as cunning as a fox.  
At night you mark her right ahead, you see her clean and clear,  
Next day at dawn—"What, ho! she bumps"—from somewhere in the rear.  
Or else the keenest-eyed patrol will miss him with the glass—  
He's lying hidden in the rocks to let the leaders pass;  
But when the mainguard comes along he opens up the fun;  
There's lots of ammunition for the little Maxim gun.

But after all the job is sure, although the job is slow,  
We have to see the business through, the Boer has got to go.

With Nordenfeldt and lyddite shell it's certain, soon or late,  
We'll hunt him from his kopjes and across the Orange State;  
And then across those open flats you'll see the beggar run,  
And we'll be running after with *our* little Maxim gun.

### RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE ARMY

"Where 'ave you been this week or more,  
'Aven't seen you about the war?  
Thought perhaps you was at the rear  
Guarding the waggons." "What, us? No fear!  
Where have we been? Why, bless my heart,  
Where have we been since the bloomin' start?  
Right in the front of the army,  
Battling day and night!  
Right in the front of the army,  
Teaching 'em how to fight!"  
Every separate man you see,  
Sapper, gunner, and C.I.V.,  
Every one of 'em seems to be  
Right in the front of the army!

Most of the troops to the camp had gone,  
When we met with a cow-gun toiling on;  
And we said to the boys, as they walked her past,  
"Well, thank goodness, you're here at last!"

"Here at last! Why, what d'yer mean?  
 Ain't we just where we've always been?  
 Right in the front of the army,  
 Battling day and night!  
 Right in the front of the army,  
 Teaching 'em how to fight!"  
 Correspondents and Vets in force,  
 Mounted foot and dismounted horse,  
 All of them were, as a matter of course,  
 Right in the front of the army.

Old Lord Roberts will have to mind  
 If ever the enemy get behind;  
 For they'll smash him up with a rear attack,  
 Because his army has got no back!  
 Think of the horrors that might befall  
 An army without any rear at all!  
 Right in the front of the army,  
 Battling day and night!  
 Right in the front of the army,  
 Teaching 'em how to fight!  
 Swede attaches and German counts,  
 Yoemen (known as De Wet's Remounts),  
 All of them were, by their own accounts,  
 Right in the front of the army!

### THAT V.C.

'Twas in the days of front attack;  
 This glorious truth we'd yet to learn it—  
 That every "front" had got a back.  
 And French was just the man to turn it.

A wounded soldier on the ground  
Was lying hid behind a hummock;  
He proved the good old proverb sound—  
An army travels on its stomach.

He lay as flat as any fish;  
His nose had worn a little furrow;  
He only had one frantic wish,  
That like an ant-bear he could burrow.

The bullets whistled into space,  
The pom-pom gun kept up its braying,  
The four-point-seven supplied the bass—  
You'd think the devil's band was playing.

A valiant comrade crawling near  
Observed his most supine behaviour,  
And crept towards him; "Hey! what cheer?  
Buck up," said he, "I've come to save yer.

"You get up on my shoulders, mate,  
And, if we live beyond the firing,  
I'll get the V.C. sure as fate,  
Because our blokes is all retiring.

"It's fifty pound a year," says he,  
"I'll stand you lots of beer and whisky."  
"No," says the wounded man, "not me,  
I'll not be saved—it's far too risky.

"I'm fairly safe behind this mound,  
I've worn a hole that seems to fit me;  
But if you lift me off the ground  
It's fifty pounds to one they'll hit me."

So back towards the firing-line  
 Our friend crept slowly to the rear-oh!  
 Remarking "What a selfish swine!  
 He might have let me be a hero."

### JOCK

There's a soldier that's been doing of his share  
 In the fighting up and down and round about.  
 He's continually marching here and there,  
 And he's fighting, morning in and morning out.  
 The Boer, you see, he generally runs;  
 But sometimes, when he hides behind a rock,  
 And we can't make no impression with the guns,  
 Oh, then you'll hear the order, "Send for Jock!"

Yes, it's Jock—Scotch Jock.  
 He's the fellow that can give or take a knock.  
 For he's hairy and he's hard,  
 And his feet are by the yard,  
 And his face is like the face what's on a clock.  
 But when the bullets fly you will mostly hear  
 the cry—  
 "Send for Jock!"

The Cavalry have gun and sword and lance;  
 Before they choose their weapon, why, they're dead.  
 The Mounted Foot are hampered in advance  
 By holding of their helmets on their head.

And, when the Boer has dug himself a trench  
And placed his Maxim gun behind a rock,  
These mounted heroes—pets of Johnny French—  
They have to sit and wait and send for Jock!

Yes, the Jocks—Scotch Jocks,  
With their music that'd terrify an ox!  
When the bullets kick the sand  
You can hear the sharp command—  
“Forty-Second! At the double! Charge the  
rocks!”  
And the charge is like a flood  
When they've warmed the Highland blood  
Of the Jocks!

## SANTA CLAUS

“Halt! Who goes there?” The sentry's call  
Rose on the midnight air  
Above the noises of the camp,  
The roll of wheels, the horses' tramp.  
The challenge echoed over all—  
“Halt! Who goes there?”

A quaint old figure clothed in white,  
He bore a staff of pine,  
An ivy-wreath was on his head.  
“Advance, O friend,” the sentry said,  
“Advance, for this is Christmas Night,  
And give the countersign.”

"No sign nor countersign have I.  
Through many lands I roam  
The whole world over far and wide.  
To exiles all at Christmastide  
From those who love them tenderly  
I bring a thought of home.

"From English brook and Scottish burn,  
From cold Canadian snows,  
From those far lands ye hold most dear  
I bring you all a greeting here,  
A frond of a New Zealand fern,  
A bloom of English rose.

"From faithful wife and loving lass  
I bring a wish divine,  
For Christmas blessings on your head."  
"I wish you well," the sentry said,  
"But here, alas! you may not pass  
Without the countersign."

He vanished—and the sentry's tramp  
Re-echoed down the line.  
It was not till the morning light  
The soldiers knew that in the night  
Old Santa Claus had come to camp  
Without the countersign.

III

*SALTBUSH BILL J.P. AND OTHER VERSES*



## SONG OF THE WHEAT

We have sung the song of the droving days,  
Of the march of the travelling sheep—  
How by silent stages and lonely ways  
Thin, white battalions creep.  
But the man who now by the land would thrive  
Must his spurs to a ploughshare beat;  
And the bush bard, changing his tune, may strive  
To sing the song of the Wheat!

It's west by south of the Great Divide  
The grim grey plains run out,  
Where the old flock-masters lived and died  
In a ceaseless fight with drought.  
Weary with waiting and hope deferred  
They were ready to own defeat,  
Till at last they heard the master-word—  
And the master-word was Wheat.

Yarran and Myall and Box and Pine—  
'Twas axe and fire for all;  
They scarce could tarry to blaze the line  
Or wait for the trees to fall,  
Ere the team was yoked, and the gates flung wide,  
And the dust of the horses' feet  
Rose up like a pillar of smoke to guide  
The wonderful march of Wheat.

Furrow by furrow, and fold by fold,  
The soil is turned on the plain;  
Better than silver and better than gold  
Is the surface-mine of the grain,

Better than cattle and better than sheep  
In the fight with drought and heat;  
For a streak of stubbornness, wide and deep,  
Lies hid in a grain of Wheat.

When the stock is swept by the hand of fate,  
Deep down on his bed of clay  
The brave brown Wheat will lie and wait  
For the resurrection day—  
Lie hid while the whole world thinks him dead;  
But the Spring-rain, soft and sweet,  
Will over the steaming paddocks spread  
The first green flush of the Wheat.

Green and amber and gold it grows  
When the sun sinks late in the West;  
And the breeze sweeps over the rippling rows  
Where the quail and the skylark nest.  
Mountain or river or shining star,  
There's never a sight can beat—  
Away to the sky-line stretching far—  
A sea of the ripening Wheat.

When the burning harvest sun sinks low,  
And shadows stretch on the plain,  
The roaring strippers come and go  
Like ships on a sea of grain,  
Till the lurching, groaning waggons bear  
Their tale of the load complete.  
Of the world's great work he has done his share  
Who has garnered a crop of wheat.

Princes, Potentates, Kings and Czars,  
They travel in regal state,  
But old King Wheat has a thousand cars  
For his trip to the water-gate;  
And his thousand steamships breast the tide  
And plough through the wind and sleet  
To the lands where the teeming millions bide  
That say: "Thank God for Wheat!"

## BRUMBY'S RUN

*Brumby is the Aboriginal word for a wild horse. At a recent trial a New South Wales Supreme Court Judge, hearing of Brumby horses, asked: "Who is Brumby, and where is his Run?"*

It lies beyond the Western Pines  
Beneath the sinking sun,  
And not a survey mark defines  
The bounds of "Brumby's Run."

On odds and ends of mountain land,  
On tracks of range and rock  
Where no one else can make a stand  
Old Brumby rears his stock.

A wild, unhandled lot they are  
Of every shape and breed.  
They venture out 'neath moon and star  
Along the flats to feed;

But, when the dawn makes pink the sky  
And steals along the plain,  
The Brumby horses turn and fly  
Back to the hills again.

The traveller by the mountain-track  
May hear their hoof-beats pass,  
And catch a glimpse of brown and black  
Dim shadows on the grass.

The eager stock-horse pricks his ears,  
And lifts his head on high  
In wild excitement, when he hears  
The Brumby mob go by.

Old Brumby asks no price or fee  
O'er all his wide domains:  
The man who yards his stock is free  
To keep them for his pains.

So, off to scour the mountain side  
With eager eyes aglow,  
To strongholds where the wild mobs hide  
The gully-rakers go.

A rush of horses through the trees,  
A red shirt making play;  
A sound of stockwhips on the breeze,  
They vanish far away!

Ah, me! before our day is done  
We long with bitter pain  
To ride once more on Brumby's Run  
And yard his mob again.

## SALTBUSH BILL ON THE PATRIARCHS

Come all you little rouseabouts and climb upon my knee;  
To-day, you see, is Christmas Day, and so it's up to me  
To give you some instruction like—a kind of Christmas tale—  
So name your yarn, and off she goes. What, "Jonah and the Whale?"

Well, whales is sheep I've never shore; I've never been to sea,  
So all them great Leviathans is mysteries to me;  
But there's a tale the Bible tells I fully understand,  
About the time the Patriarchs were settling on the land.

Those Patriarchs of olden time, when all is said and done,  
They lived the same as far-out men on many a Queensland run—  
A lot of roving, droving men who drifted to and fro.  
The same we did out Queensland way a score of years ago.

Now Isaac was a squatter man, and Jacob was his  
son,  
And when the boy grew up, you see, he wearied  
of the run.

You know the way that boys grow up—there's some  
that stick at home;  
But any boy that's worth his salt will roll his swag  
and roam.

So Jacob caught the roving fit and took the drovers'  
track  
To where his uncle had a run, beyond the outer  
back;  
You see they made for out-back runs for room to  
stretch and grow,  
The same we did out Queensland way a score of  
years ago.

Now, Jacob knew the ways of stock—that's most  
uncommon clear—  
For, when he got to Laban's Run, they made him  
overseer;  
He didn't ask a pound a week, but bargained for  
his pay  
To take the roan and strawberry calves—the same  
we'd take to-day.

The duns and blacks and “Goulburn roans” (that's  
brindles), coarse and hard,  
He branded them with Laban's brand, in Old Man  
Laban's yard;  
So, when he'd done the station work for close on  
seven year,  
Why, all the choicest stock belonged to Laban's  
overseer.

It's often so with overseers—I've seen the same thing done

By many a Queensland overseer on many a Queensland run.

But when the mustering time came on old Laban acted straight,

And gave him country of his own outside the boundary gate.

He gave him stock, and offered him his daughter's hand in troth;

And Jacob first he married one, and then he married both;

You see, they weren't particular about a wife or so—

No more were we up Queensland way a score of years ago.

But when the stock were strong and fat with grass and lots of rain,

Then Jacob felt the call to take the homeward track again.

It's strange in every creed and clime, no matter where you roam,

There comes a day when every man would like to make for home.

So off he set with sheep and goats, a mighty moving band,

To battle down the dusty road along the Overland—

It's droving mixed-up mobs like that that makes men cut their throats,

I've travelled rams, which Lord forget, but never travelled goats.

But Jacob knew the ways of stock, for (so the story goes)  
When battling through the Philistines—selectors, I suppose—  
He thought he'd have to fight his way, an awkward sort of job;  
So what did Old Man Jacob do? Of course, he split the mob.

He sent the strong stock on ahead to battle out the way;  
He couldn't hurry lambing ewes—no more you could to-day—  
And down the road from run to run, his hand 'against every hand,  
He moved that mighty mob of stock across the Overland.

The thing is made so clear and plain, so solid in and out,  
There isn't any room at all for any kind of doubt.  
It's just a plain straightforward tale—a tale that lets you know  
The way they lived in Palestine three thousand years ago.

It's strange to read it all to-day, the shifting of the stock;  
You'd think you see the caravans that loaf behind the flock,  
The little donkeys and the mules, the sheep that slowly spread,  
And maybe Dan or Naphthali a-ridin' on ahead.

The long, dry, dusty summer days, the smouldering fires at night;  
 The stir and bustle of the camp at break of morning light;  
 The little kids that skipped about, the camels' dead-slow tramp—  
 I wish I'd done a week or two in Old Man Jacob's camp!

*But if I keep the narrer path, some day, perhaps, I'll know  
 How Jacob bred them strawberry calves three thousand years ago.*

## THE REVEREND MULLINEUX

I'd reckon his weight as eight-stun-eight,  
 And his height at five-foot-two,  
 With a face as plain as an eight-day clock  
 And a walk as brisk as a bantam-cock—  
 Game as a bantam, too,  
 Hard and wiry and full of steam,  
 That's the boss of the English Team,  
 Reverend Mullineux!

Makes no row when the game gets rough—  
 None of your "Strike me blue!"  
 "Yous wants smacking across the snout!"  
 Plays like a gentleman out-and-out—  
 Same as he ought to do.  
 "Kindly remove from off my face!"  
 That's the way that he states his case,  
 Reverend Mullineux.

Kick! He can kick like an army mule—

Run like a kangaroo!

Hard to get by as a lawyer-plant,

Tackles his man like a bull-dog ant—

Fetches him over too!

*Didn't* the public cheer and shout

Watchin' him chuckin' big blokes about,

Reverend Mullineux!

Scrimmage was packed on his prostrate form,

Somehow the ball got through—

Who was it tackled our big half-back,

Flinging him down like an empty sack,

Right on our goal-line too?

Who but the man that we thought was dead,

Down with a score of 'em on his head,

Reverend Mullineux.

### WISDOM OF HAFIZ

My son, if you go to the races to battle with Ikey  
and Mo,

Remember, it's seldom the pigeon can pick out the  
eye of the crow;

Remember, they live by the business; remember, my  
son, and go slow.

If ever an owner should tell you, "Back mine"—  
don't you be such a flat.

He knows his own cunning, no doubt—does he know  
what the others are at?

Find out what he's frightened of most, and invest a  
few dollars on that.

Walk not in the track of the trainer, nor hang  
round the rails at his stall.

His wisdom belongs to his patron—shall he give it  
to one and to all?

When the stable is served he may tell you—and his  
words are like jewels let fall.

Run wide of the tipster who whispers that Borak  
is sure to be first,

He tells the next mug that he corners a tale with  
the placings reversed;

And, remember, of judges of racing, the jockey's the  
absolute worst.

When they lay three to one on the field, and the  
runners are twenty-and-two,

Take a pull on your self; take a pull—it's a mighty  
big field to get through.

Is the club handicapper a fool? If a fool is about,  
p'raps it's you!

Beware of the critic who tells you the handicap's  
absolute rot,

For this is chucked in, and that's hopeless, and  
somebody ought to be shot.

How is it he can't make a fortune himself when  
he knows such a lot?

From tipsters, and jockeys, and trials, and gallops,  
the glory has gone,

For this is the wisdom of Hafiz that sages have  
pondered upon,

"The very best tip in the world is to see the com-  
mission go on!"

## SALTBUSH BILL, J.P.

Beyond the land where Leichhardt went,  
    Beyond Sturt's Western track,  
The rolling tide of change has sent  
    Some strange J.P.'s out back.

And Saltbush Bill, grown old and grey,  
    And worn for want of sleep,  
Received the news in camp one day  
    Behind the travelling sheep.

That Edward Rex, confiding in  
    His known integrity,  
By hand and seal on parchment skin  
    Had made him a J.P.

He read the news with eager face  
    But found no word of pay.  
“I'd like to see my sister's place  
    And kids on Christmas Day.

“I'd like to see green grass again,  
    And watch clear water run,  
Away from this unholy plain,  
    And flies, and dust, and sun.”

At last one little clause he found  
    That might some hope inspire,  
“A magistrate may charge a pound  
    For inquest on a fire.”

A big blacks' camp was built close by,  
And Saltbush Bill, says he,  
"I think that camp might well supply  
A job for a J.P."

That night, by strange coincidence,  
A most disastrous fire  
Destroyed the country residence  
Of Jacky Jack, Esquire.

'Twas mostly leaves, and bark, and dirt;  
The party most concerned  
Appeared to think it wouldn't hurt  
If forty such were burned.

Quite otherwise thought Saltbush Bill,  
Who watched the leaping flame.  
"The home is small," said he, "but still  
The principle's the same.

"Midst palaces though you should roam,  
Or follow pleasure's tracks,  
You'll find," he said, "no place like home—  
At least like Jacky Jack's.

"Tell every man in camp 'Come quick,'  
Tell every black Maria  
I give tobacco, half a stick—  
Hold inquest long-a fire."

Each juryman received a name  
Well suited to a Court.  
"Long Jack" and "Stumpy Bill" became  
"John Long" and "William Short."

While such as "Tarpot," "Bullock Dray,"  
And "Tommy Wait-a-While,"  
Became, for ever and a day,  
"Scott," "Dickens," and "Carlyle."

And twelve good sable men and true  
Were soon engaged upon  
The conflagration that o'erthrew  
The home of John A. John.

Their verdict, "Burnt by act of Fate,"  
They scarcely had returned  
When, just behind the magistrate,  
Another humpy burned!

The jury sat again and drew  
Another stick of plug.  
Said Saltbush Bill, "It's up to you  
Put some one long-a Jug."

"I'll camp the sheep," he said, "and sift  
The evidence about."  
For quite a week he couldn't shift,  
The way the fires broke out.

The jury thought the whole concern  
As good as any play.  
They used to "take him oath" and earn  
Three sticks of plug a day.

At last the tribe lay down to sleep  
Homeless, beneath a tree;  
And onward with his travelling sheep  
Went Saltbush Bill, J.P.

The sheep delivered, safe and sound,  
His horse to town he turned,  
And drew some five-and-twenty pound  
For fees that he had earned.

And where Monaro's ranges hide  
Their little farms away—  
His sister's children by his side—  
He spent his Christmas Day.

The next J.P. that went out back  
Was shocked, or pained, or both,  
At hearing every pagan black  
Repeat the juror's oath.

No matter though he turned and fled  
They followed faster still;  
"You make it inkwich, boss," they said,  
"All same like Saltbush Bill."

They even said they'd let him see  
The fires originate.  
When he refused they said that he  
Was "No good magistrate."

And out beyond Sturt's Western track,  
And Leichhardt's farthest tree,  
They wait till fate shall send them back  
Their Saltbush Bill, J.P.

## RIDERS IN THE STAND

There's some that ride the Robbo style, and bump  
at every stride;

While others sit a long way back, to get a longer  
ride.

There's some that ride as sailors do, with legs, and  
arms, and teeth;

And some ride on the horse's neck, and some ride  
underneath.

But all the finest horsemen out—the men to Beat  
the Band—

You'll find amongst the crowd that ride their races  
in the Stand.

They'll say "He had the race in hand, and lost it  
in the straight."

They'll show how Godby came too soon, and Barden  
came too late.

They'll say Chevalley lost his nerve, and Regan  
lost his head;

They'll tell how one was "livened up" and some-  
thing else was "dead"—

In fact, the race was never run on sea, or sky, or  
land,

But what you'd get it better done by riders in  
the Stand.

The rule holds good in everything in life's un-  
certain fight;

You'll find the winner can't go wrong, the loser  
can't go right.

You ride a slashing race, and lose—by one and all  
you're banned!  
Ride like a bag of flour, and win—they'll cheer you  
in the Stand.

## WALTZING MATILDA

*(Carrying a Swag.)*

Oh! there once was a swagman camped in a  
Billabong,  
Under the shade of a Coolabah tree;  
And he sang as he looked at his old billy boiling,  
“Who'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me?”

Who'll come a-waltzing Matilda, my darling,  
Who'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me?  
Waltzing Matilda and leading a water-bag—  
Who'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me?

Down came a jumbuck to drink at the water-hole,  
Up jumped the swagman and grabbed him in glee;  
And he sang as he stowed him away in his tucker-  
bag,  
“You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me!”

Down came the Squatter a-riding his thorough-  
bred;  
Down came Policemen—one, two and three.  
“Whose is the jumbuck you've got in the tucker-  
bag?  
You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me.”

But the swagman, he up and he jumped in the water-hole,  
Drowning himself by the Coolabah tree;  
And his ghost may be heard as it sings in the Billa-bong  
"Who'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me?"

#### AN ANSWER TO VARIOUS BARDS

Well, I've waited mighty patient while they all came rolling in,  
Mister Lawson, Mister Dyson, and the others of their kin,  
With their dreadful, dismal stories of the Overlander's camp,  
How his fire is always smoky, and his boots are always damp;  
And they paint it so terrific it would fill one's soul with gloom—  
But you know they're fond of writing about "corpses" and "the tomb."  
So, before they curse the bushland, they should let their fancy range,  
And take something for their livers, and be cheerful for a change.

Now, for instance, Mr. Lawson—well, of course, we almost cried  
At the sorrowful description how his "little 'Arvie" died,

And we lachrymosed in silence when "His Father's Mate" was slain;

Then he went and killed the father, and we had to weep again.

Ben Duggan and Jack Denver, too, he caused them to expire,

After which he cooked the gander of Jack Dunn, of Nevertire;

And, no doubt, the bush *is* wretched if you judge it by the groan

Of the sad and soulful poet with a graveyard of his own.

And he spoke in terms prophetic of a revolution's heat,

When the world should hear the clamour of those people in the street;

But the shearer chaps who start it—why, he rounds on them in blame,

And he calls 'em "agitators who are living on the game."

But I "over-write" the bushmen! Well, I own without a doubt

That I always see a hero in the "man from furthest out."

I could never contemplate him through an atmosphere of gloom,

And a bushman never struck me as a subject for "the tomb."

If it ain't all "golden sunshine" where the "wattle branches wave,"

Well, it ain't all damp and dismal, and it ain't all "lonely grave."

And, of course, there's no denying that the bushman's life is rough,  
But a man can easy stand it if he's built of sterling stuff;  
Though it's seldom that the drover gets a bed of eiderdown,  
Yet the man who's born a bushman, he gets mighty sick of town,  
For he's jotting down the figures, and he's adding up the bills  
While his heart is simply aching for a sight of Southern hills.

Then he hears a wool-team passing with a rumble and a lurch,  
And, although the work is pressing, yet it brings him off his perch.  
For it stirs him like a message from his station friends afar  
And he seems to sniff the ranges in the scent of wool and tar;  
And it takes him back in fancy, half in laughter, half in tears,  
To a sound of other voices and a thought of other years,  
When the woolshed rang with bustle from the dawning of the day,  
And the shear-blades were a-clicking to the cry of "Wool away!"

Then his face was somewhat browner, and his frame was firmer set—  
And he feels his flabby muscles with a feeling of regret.

But the wool-team slowly passes, and his eyes go  
sadly back

To the dusty little table and the papers in the rack,  
And his thoughts go to the terrace where his sickly  
children squall,

And he thinks there's something healthy in the bush-  
life after all.

But we'll go no more a-droving in the wind or in the  
sun,

For our fathers' hearts have failed us, and the  
droving days are done.

There's a nasty dash of danger where the long-  
horned bullock wheels,

And we like to live in comfort and to get our reg'lar  
meals.

For to hang around the townships suits us better,  
you'll agree,

And a job at washing bottles is the job for such as  
we.

Let us herd into the cities, let us crush and crowd  
and push

Till we lose the love of roving, and we learn to hate  
the bush;

And we'll turn our aspirations to a city life and  
beer,

And we'll slip across to England—it's a nicer place  
than here;

For there's not much risk of hardship where all  
comforts are in store,

And the theatres are in plenty, and the pubs are  
more and more.

But that ends it, Mr. Lawson, and it's time to say  
good-bye,  
So we must agree to differ in all friendship, you  
and I.  
Yes, we'll work our own salvation with the stoutest  
hearts we may,  
And if fortune only favours we will take the road  
some day,  
And go droving down the river 'neath the sunshine  
and the stars,  
And then return to Sydney and vermillionize the  
bars.

## T. Y. S. O. N.

Across the Queensland border line  
The mobs of cattle go;  
They travel down in sun and shine  
On dusty stage, and slow.  
The drovers, riding slowly on  
To let the cattle spread,  
Will say: "Here's one old landmark gone,  
For old man Tyson's dead."

What tales there'll be in every camp  
By men that Tyson knew!  
The swagmen, meeting on the tramp,  
Will yarn the long day through,

And tell of how he passed as "Brown,"  
And fooled the local men:  
"But not for me—I struck the town,  
And passed the message further down;  
That's T. Y. S. O. N.!"

There stands a little country town  
Beyond the border line,  
Where dusty roads go up and down,  
And banks with pubs combine.  
A stranger came to cash a cheque—  
Few were the words he said—  
A handkerchief about his neck,  
An old hat on his head.

A long grey stranger, eagle-eyed—  
"Know me? Of course you do?"  
"It's not my work," the boss replied,  
"To know such tramps as you."  
"Well, look here, Mister, don't be flash,"  
Replied the stranger then,  
"I never care to make a splash,  
I'm simple, but I've got the cash;  
I'm T. Y. S. O. N."

But in that last great drafting-yard,  
Where Peter keeps the gate,  
And souls of sinners find it barred,  
And go to meet their fate,  
There's one who ought to enter in  
For good deeds done on earth,  
One who from Peter's self must win  
That meed of sterling worth.

Not to the strait and narrow gate  
 Reserved for wealthy men,  
 But to the big gate, opened wide,  
 The grizzled figure, eagle-eyed,  
 Will saunter up—and then  
 Old Peter'll say: "Let's pass him through;  
 There's many a thing he used to do,  
 Good-hearted things that no one knew;  
 That's T. Y. S. O. N."

### AS LONG AS YOUR EYES ARE BLUE

"Will you love me, sweet, when my hair is grey  
 And my cheeks shall have lost their hue?  
 When the charms of youth shall have passed away  
 Will your love as of old prove true?  
  
 For the looks may change, and the heart may range,  
 And the love be no longer fond;  
 Will you love with truth in the years of youth  
 And away to the years beyond?"  
  
 Oh, I love you, sweet, for your locks of brown  
 And the blush on your cheek that lies—  
 But I love you most for the kindly heart  
 That I see in your sweet blue eyes.  
  
 For the eyes are signs of the soul within,  
 Of the heart that is leal and true,  
 And, my own sweetheart, I shall love you still,  
 Just as long as your eyes are blue.

For the locks may bleach, and the cheeks of peach  
May be reft of their golden hue;  
But, my own sweetheart, I shall love you still,  
Just as long as your eyes are blue.

## BOTTLE-O!

I ain't the kind of bloke as takes to any steady job;  
I drives me bottle cart around the town;  
A bloke what keeps 'is eyes about can always make  
a bob—  
I couldn't bear to graft for every brown.  
There's lots of handy things about in everybody's  
yard,  
There's cocks and hens a-runnin' to an' fro,  
And little dogs what comes and barks—we take  
'em off their guard  
And we puts 'em with the Empty Bottle-O!

## Chorus—

So it's any "Empty bottles! Any empty bottle-  
O!"  
You can hear us round for half a mile or so.  
And you'll see the women rushing  
To take in the Monday's washing  
When they 'ear us crying, "Empty Bottle-O!"

I'm drivin' down by Wexford-street and up a winder goes,

A girl sticks out 'er 'ead and looks at me,  
An all-right tart with ginger 'air, and freckles on  
er nose;

I stops the cart and walks across to see.  
"There ain't no bottles 'ere," says she, "since father took the pledge;"  
"No bottles 'ere," says I, "I'd like to know  
What right you 'ave to stick your 'ead outside the winder ledge,  
If you 'aven't got no Empty Bottle-O!"

I sometimes gives the 'orse a spell, and then the push and me

We takes a little trip to Chowder Bay.  
Oh! ain't it nice the 'ole day long a-gazin' at the sea

And a-hidin' of the tanglefoot away.  
But when the booze gits 'old of us, and fellows starts to "scrap,"

There's some what likes blue-metal for to throw:  
But as for me, I always says for layin' out a "trap"  
There's nothing like an Empty Bottle-O!

### STORY OF MONGREL GREY

This is the story the stockman told

On the cattle-camp, when the stars were bright;  
The moon rose up like a globe of gold

And flooded the plain with her mellow light.

We watched the cattle till dawn of day  
And he told me the story of Mongrel Grey.

He was a knock-about station hack,  
Spurred and walloped, and banged and beat;  
Ridden all day with a sore on his back,  
Left all night with nothing to eat.  
That was a matter of everyday  
Normal occurrence with Mongrey Grey.

We might have sold him, but someone heard  
He was bred out back on a flooded run,  
Where he learnt to swim like a waterbird;  
Midnight or midday were all as one—  
In the flooded ground he would find his way;  
Nothing could puzzle old Mongrel Grey.

'Tis a trick, no doubt, that some horses learn;  
When the floods are out they will splash along  
In girth-deep water, and twist and turn  
From hidden channel and billabong,  
Never mistaking the road to go;  
For a man may guess—but the horses *know*.

I was camping out with my youngest son—  
Bit of a nipper, just learnt to speak—  
In an empty hut on the lower run,  
Shooting and fishing in Conroy's Creek.  
The youngster toddled about all day,  
And there with our horses was Mongrel Grey.

All of a sudden a flood came down,  
At first a freshet of mountain rain,  
Roaring and eddying, rank and brown,  
Over the flats and across the plain.  
Rising and rising—at fall of night  
Nothing but water appeared in sight!

'Tis a nasty place when the floods are out,  
Even in daylight; for all around  
Channels and billabongs twist about,  
Stretching for miles in the flooded ground.  
And to move seemed a hopeless thing to try  
In the dark with the storm-water racing by.

I had to risk it. I heard a roar  
As the wind swept down and the driving rain;  
And the water rose till it reached the floor  
Of our highest room; and 'twas very plain—  
The way the torrent was sweeping down—  
We must make for the highlands at once, or  
drown.

Off to the stable I splashed, and found  
The horses shaking with cold and fright;  
I led them down to the lower ground,  
But never a yard would they swim that night!  
They reared and snorted and turned away,  
And none would face it but Mongrel Grey.

I bound the child on the horse's back,  
And we started off, with a prayer to heaven,  
Through the rain and the wind and the pitchy black,  
For I knew that the instinct God has given  
To prompt His creatures by night and day  
Would guide the footsteps of Mongrel Grey.

He struck deep water at once and swam—  
I swam beside him and held his mane—  
Till we touched the bank of the broken dam  
In shallow water; then off again,  
Swimming in darkness across the flood,  
Rank with the smell of the drifting mud.

He turned and twisted across and back,  
Choosing the places to wade or swim,  
Picking the safest and shortest track—  
The blackest darkness was clear to him.  
Did he strike the crossing by sight or smell?  
The Lord that led him alone could tell!

He dodged the timber whene'er he could,  
But timber brought us to grief at last;  
I was partly stunned by a log of wood  
That struck my head as it drifted past;  
Then lost my grip of the brave old grey,  
And in half a second he swept away.

I reached a tree, where I had to stay,  
And did a perish for two days' hard;  
And lived on water—but Mongrel Grey,  
He walked right into the homestead yard  
At dawn next morning, and grazed around,  
With the child strapped on to him safe and  
sound.

We keep him now for the wife to ride,  
Nothing too good for him now, of course;  
Never a whip on his fat old hide,  
For she owes the child to that brave grey horse.  
And not Old Tyson himself could pay  
The purchase money of Mongrel Grey.

## GILHOOLEY'S ESTATE

*(A ballad concerning the amalgamation of the legal profession.)*

Oh, Mr. Gilhooley he turned up his toes,  
 As most of us do, soon or late;  
 And Jones was a lawyer, as everyone knows,  
 So they took him Gilhooley's Estate.

Gilhooley in life had been living so free  
 'Twas thought his possessions were great,  
 So Jones, with a smile, says, "There's many a fee  
 For me in Gilhooley's Estate."

They made out a list of his property fine,  
 It totalled a thousand-and-eight;  
 But the debts were nine hundred and ninety and  
 nine—  
 The debts of Gilhooley's Estate.

So Mrs. Gilhooley says, "Jones, my dear man,  
 My childer have little to ait:  
 Just keep the expinses as low as you can  
 Against poor Gilhooley's Estate."

But Jones says, "The will isn't clear in its terms,  
 I fear it will need some debate,  
 And the law won't allow me (attorneys are worms)  
 To appear in Gilhooley's Estate."

So a barrister-man, with a wig on his head  
And a brief in his hand, quite elate,  
Went up to the Court where they bury the dead,  
Just to move in Gilhooley's Estate.

But his Honour the Judge said, "I think that the  
joint  
Legatees must be called to *probate*—  
*Ex parte* Pokehorney is clear on the point—  
The point of Gilhooley's Estate."

"I order a suit to be brought just to try  
If this is correct that I state—  
A nice friendly suit—and the costs by and by,  
Must be borne by Gilhooley's Estate."

So Mrs. Gilhooley says, "Jones, you'll appear!  
Thim barristers' fees is too great;  
The suit is but friendly," "Attorneys, my dear,  
Can't be heard in Gilhooley's Estate."

From the barristers' quarter a mighty hurrah  
Arises both early and late:  
It's only the whoop of the Junior Bar  
Dividing Gilhooley's Estate.

### THE ROAD TO HOGAN'S GAP

Now look, you see, it's this way like—  
You cross the broken bridge  
And run the crick down, till you strike  
The second right-hand ridge.

The track is hard to see in parts,  
But still it's pretty clear;  
There's been two Injin hawkers' carts  
Along that road this year.

Well, run that right-hand ridge along—  
It ain't, to say, too steep—  
There's two fresh tracks might put you wrong  
Where blokes went out with sheep.

But keep the crick upon your right,  
And follow pretty straight  
Along the spur, until you sight  
A wire and sapling gate.

Well, that's where Hogan's old grey mare  
Fell off and broke her back;  
You'll see her carcass layin' there,  
Jist down below the track.

And then you drop two mile, or three,  
It's pretty steep and blind;  
You want to go and fall a tree  
And tie it on behind.

And then you pass a broken cart  
Below a granite bluff;  
And that is where you strike the part  
They reckon pretty rough.

But by the time you've got that far  
It's either cure or kill,  
So turn your horses round the spur  
And face 'em up the hill.

For look, if you should miss the slope  
And get below the track,  
You haven't got the slightest hope  
Of ever gettin' back.

An' half way up you'll see the hide  
O Hogan's brindled bull;  
Well, mind and keep the right-hand side,  
The left's too steep a pull.

And both the banks is full of cracks;  
An' just about at dark  
You'll see the last year's bullock tracks  
Where Hogan drew the bark.

The marks is old and pretty faint—  
O'ergrown with scrub and such;  
Of course the track to Hogan's ain't  
A road that's travelled much.

But turn and run the tracks along  
For half a mile or more,  
And then, of course, you can't go wrong—  
You're right at Hogan's door.

When first you come to Hogan's gate  
He mightn't show, perhaps;  
He's pretty sure to plant, and wait  
To see it ain't the traps.

I wouldn't call it good enough  
To let your horses out;  
There's some that's pretty extra rough  
Is livin' round about.

It's likely, if your horses did  
Get feedin' near the track,  
It's goin' to cost at least a quid  
Or more to get them back.

So, if you find they're off the place,  
It's up to you to go  
And flash a quid in Hogan's face—  
He'll know the blokes that know.

But listen—if you're feelin' dry,  
Just see there's no one near,  
And go and wink the other eye  
And ask for ginger beer.

The blokes come in from near and far  
To sample Hogan's pop;  
They reckon once they breast the bar  
They stay there till they drop.

On Sundays you can see them spread  
Like flies around the tap.  
It's like that song "The Livin' Dead"  
Up there at Hogan's Gap.

They like to make it pretty strong  
Whenever there's a chance;  
So when a stranger comes along  
They always hold a dance.

There's recitations, songs, and fights—  
A willin' lot you'll meet.  
There's one long bloke up there recites;  
I tell you he's a treat.

They're lively blokes all right up there,  
It's never dull a day.  
I'd go meself if I could spare  
The time to get away.

The stranger turned his horses quick.

He didn't cross the bridge;  
He didn't go along the crick  
To strike the second ridge;

He didn't make the trip, because  
He wasn't feeling fit.  
His business up at Hogan's was  
To serve him with a writ.

He reckoned, if he faced the pull  
And climbed the rocky stair,  
The next to come might find his hide  
A landmark on the mountain side,  
Along with Hogan's brindled bull  
And Hogan's old grey mare!

### A SINGER OF THE BUSH

There is waving of grass in the breeze  
And a song in the air,  
And a murmur of myriad bees  
That toil everywhere.

There is scent in the blossom and bough,  
And the breath of the Spring  
Is as soft as a kiss on a brow—  
And Springtime I sing.

There is drought on the land, and the stock  
Tumble down in their tracks  
Or follow—a tottering flock—  
The scrub-cutter's axe.  
While ever a creature survives  
The axes shall swing;  
We are fighting with fate for their lives—  
And the combat I sing.

### "SHOUTING" FOR A CAMEL

It was over at Coolgardie that a mining speculator,  
Who was going down the township just to make  
a bit o' chink,  
Went off to hire a camel from a camel propagator,  
And the Afghan said he'd lend it if he'd stand the  
beast a drink.  
Yes, the only price he asked him was to stand the  
beast a drink.  
He was cheap, very cheap, as the dromedaries go.  
  
So the mining speculator made the bargain, proudly  
thinking  
He had bested old Mahomet, he had done him in  
the eye.  
Then he clambered on the camel, and the while the  
beast was drinking  
He explained with satisfaction to the miners stand-  
ing by  
That 'twas cheap, very cheap, as the dromedaries go.

But the camel kept on drinking and he filled his hold with water,  
And the more he had inside him yet the more he seemed to need;  
For he drank it by the gallon, and his girths grew taut and tauter,  
And the miners muttered softly, "Yes he's very dry indeed!  
But he's cheap, very cheap, as the dromedaries go."

So he drank up twenty buckets—it was weird to watch him suck it,  
(And the market price for water was per bucket half-a-crown)  
Till the speculator stopped him, saying, "Not another bucket—  
If I give him any more there'll be a famine in the town.  
Take him back to old Mahomet, and I'll tramp it through the town."  
He was cheap, very cheap, as the speculators go.

There's a moral to this story—in your hat you ought to paste it—  
Be careful whom you shout for when a camel is about,  
And there's plenty human camels who, before they'll see you waste it,  
Will drink up all you pay for if you're fool enough to shout;  
If you chance to strike a camel when you're fool enough to shout,  
You'll be cheap, very cheap, as the speculators go.

## MULLIGAN'S MARE

Oh, Mulligan's bar was the deuce of a place  
 To drink, and to fight, and to gamble and race;  
 The height of choice spirits from near and from far  
 Were all concentrated on Mulligan's bar.

There was "Jerry the Swell," and the jockey-boy  
 Ned,  
 "Dog-bite-me"—so called from the shape of his  
 head—  
 And a man whom the boys, in their musical slang,  
 Designated the "Gaffer of Mulligan's Gang."

Now Mulligan's Gang had a racer to show,  
 A bad un to look at, a good un to go;  
 Whenever they backed her you safely might swear  
 She'd walk in a winner, would Mulligan's mare.

But Mulligan, having some radical views,  
 Neglected his business and got on the booze;  
 He took up with runners—a treacherous troop—  
 Who gave him away, and he "fell in the soup."

And so it turned out on a fine summer day,  
 A bailiff turned up with a writ of "*h. fa.*";  
 We walked to the bar with a manner serene,  
 "I levy," said he, "in the name of the Queen."

Then Mulligan wanted, in spite of the law,  
 To pay out the bailiff with "*one* on the jaw;"  
 He drew out to hit him; but, ere you could wink,  
 He changed his intention and stood him a drink.

A great consultation there straightway befel  
'Twixt jockey-boy Neddy and Jerry the Swell,  
And the man with the head, who remarked "Why,  
you bet!"  
Dog-bite-me!" said he, "but we'll diddle 'em yet.

"We'll slip out the mare from her stall in a crack,  
And put in her place the old broken-down hack;  
The hack is so like her, I'm ready to swear  
The bailiff will think he has Mulligan's mare.

"So out with the racer and in with the screw,  
We'll show him what Mulligan's talent can do;  
And if he gets nasty and dares to say much,  
I'll knock him as stiff as my grandmother's  
crutch."

Then off to the town went the mare and the lad;  
The bailiff came out, never dreamt he was "had;"  
But marched to the stall with a confident air—  
"I levy," said he, "upon Mulligan's mare."

He watched her by day and he watched her by  
night,  
She was never an instant let out of his sight,  
For races were coming away in the West  
And Mulligan's mare had a chance with the best.

"Here's a slant," thought the bailiff, "to serve my  
own ends,  
I'll send off a wire to my bookmaking friends:  
'Get all you can borrow, beg, snavel or snare  
And lay the whole lot against Mulligan's mare.'"

The races came round, and the crowd on the course  
Were laying the mare till they made themselves  
    hoarse,  
And Mulligan's party, with ardour intense,  
They backed her for pounds and for shillings and  
    pence.

But think of the grief of the bookmaking host  
At the sound of the summons to go to the post—  
For down to the start with her thoroughbred air  
As fit as a fiddle pranced Mulligan's mare!

They started, and off went the boy to the front,  
He cleared out at once, and he made it a hunt;  
He steadied as rounding the corner they wheeled,  
Then gave her her head—and she smothered the  
    field.

The race put her owner right clear of his debts;  
He landed a fortune in stakes and in bets,  
He paid the old bailiff the whole of his pelf,  
And gave him a hiding to keep for himself.

So all you bold sportsmen take warning, I pray,  
Keep clear of the running, you'll find it don't pay;  
For the very best rule that you'll hear in a week  
Is never to bet on a thing that can speak.

And, whether you're lucky or whether you lose,  
Keep clear of the cards and keep clear of the  
    booze,  
And fortune in season will answer your prayer  
And send you a flyer like Mulligan's mare.

## THE MOUNTAIN SQUATTER

Here in my mountain home,  
On rugged hills and steep,  
I sit and watch you come,  
O Riverina Sheep!

You come from fertile plains  
Where saltbush (sometimes) grows,  
And flats that (when it rains)  
Will blossom like the rose.

But when the summer sun  
Gleams down like burnished brass,  
You have to leave your run  
And hustle off for grass.

'Tis then that—forced to roam—  
You come to where I keep,  
Here in my mountain home,  
A boarding-house for sheep.

Around me where I sit  
The wary wombat goes—  
A beast of little wit,  
But what he knows, he *knows.*

The very same remark  
Applies to me also;  
I don't give out a spark,  
But what I know, I *know.*

My brain perhaps would show  
No convolutions deep,  
But anyhow I know  
The way to handle sheep.

These Riverina cracks,  
They do not care to ride  
The half-inch hanging tracks  
Along the mountain side.

Their horses shake with fear  
When loosened boulders go  
With leaps, like startled deer,  
Down to the gulfs below.

Their very dogs will shirk,  
And drop their tails in fright  
When asked to go and work  
A mob that's out of sight.

My little collie pup  
Works silently and wide;  
You'll see her climbing up  
Along the mountain side.

As silent as a fox  
You'll see her come and go,  
A shadow through the rocks  
Where ash and messmate grow.

Then, lost to sight and sound  
Behind some rugged steep,  
She works her way around  
And gathers up the sheep;

And, working wide and shy,  
She holds them rounded up.  
The cash ain't coined to buy  
That little collie pup.

And so I draw a screw  
For self and dog and keep  
To boundary-ride for you,  
O Riverina Sheep!

And, when the autumn rain  
Has made the herbage grow,  
You travel off again,  
And glad—no doubt—to go.

But some are left behind  
Around the mountain's spread,  
For those we cannot find  
We put them down as dead.

So, when we say adieu  
And close the boarding job,  
I always find a few  
Fresh ear-marks in my mob.

And, what with those I sell,  
And what with those I keep,  
You pay me pretty well,  
O Riverina Sheep!

It's up to me to shout  
Before we say good-bye—  
"Here's to a howlin' drought  
All west of Gundagai!"

## PIONEERS

They came of bold and roving stock that would not  
fixed abide;  
They were the sons of field and flock since e'er they  
learnt to ride,  
We may not hope to see such men in these degene-  
rate years  
As those explorers of the bush—the brave old  
pioneers.

'Twas they who rode the trackless bush in heat and  
storm and drought;  
'Twas they who heard the master-word that called  
them farther out;  
'Twas they who followed up the trail the mountain  
cattle made,  
And pressed across the mighty range where now  
their bones are laid.

But now the times are dull and slow, the brave old  
days are dead  
When hardy bushmen started out, and forced their  
way ahead  
By tangled scrub and forests grim towards the un-  
known west,  
And spied at last the promised land from off the  
range's crest.

O ye that sleep in lonely graves by distant ridge  
and plain,  
We drink to you in silence now as Christmas comes  
again,

To you who fought the wilderness through rough  
unsettled years—  
The founders of our nation's life, the brave old  
pioneers.

## SANTA CLAUS IN THE BUSH

It chanced out back at the Christmas time,  
When the wheat was ripe and tall,  
A stranger rode to the farmer's gate—  
A sturdy man and a small.

“Rin doon, rin doon, my little son Jack,  
And bid the stranger stay;  
And we'll hae a crack for Auld Lang Syne,  
For the morn is Christmas Day.”

“Nay noo, nay noo,” said the dour guidwife,  
“But ye should let him be;  
He's maybe only a drover chap  
Frae the land o' the Darling Pea.

“Wi' a drover's tales, and a drover's thirst  
To swiggle the hail nicht through;  
Or he's maybe a life assurance carle  
To talk ye black and blue.”

“Guidwife, he's never a drover chap,  
For their swags are neat and thin;  
And he's never a life assurance carle,  
Wi' the brick-dust burnt in his skin.

“Guidwife, guidwife, be nae sae dour,  
For the wheat stands ripe and tall,  
And we shore a seven-pound fleece this year,  
Ewes and weaners and all.

"There is grass tae spare, and the stock are fat  
 Where they whiles are gaunt and thin,  
 And we owe a tithe to the travelling poor,  
 So we maun ask him in.

"Ye can set him a chair tae the table side,  
 And gi' him a bite tae eat;  
 An omelette made of a new-laid egg,  
 Or a tasty bit of meat."

"But the native cats have taen the fowls,  
 They havena left a leg;  
 And he'll get nae omelette here at a'  
 Till the emu lays an egg!"

"Rin doon, rin doon, my little son Jack,  
 To whaur the emus bide,  
 Ye shall find the auld hen on the nest,  
 While the auld cock sits beside.

"But speak them fair, and speak them saft,  
 Lest they kick ye a fearsome jolt.  
 Ye can gi' them a feed of thae half-inch nails  
 Or a rusty carriage bolt."

So little son Jack ran blithely down  
 With the rusty nails in hand,  
 Till he came where the emus fluffed and scratched  
 By their nest in the open sand.

And there he has gathered the new-laid egg—  
 'Twould fed three men or four—  
 And the emus came for the half-inch nails  
 Right up to the settler's door.

"A waste o' food," said the dour guidwife,  
As she took the egg, with a frown,  
"But he gets nae meat, unless ye rin  
A paddy-melon down."

"Gang oot, gang oot, my little son Jack,  
Wi' your twa-three doggies sma';  
Gin ye come nae back wi' a peddy-melon,  
Then come nae back at a'."

So little son Jack he raced and he ran,  
And he was bare o' the feet,  
And soon he captured a paddy-melon,  
Was gorged with the stolen wheat.

"Sit doon, sit doon, my boony wee man,  
To the best that the hoose can do—  
An omelette made of the emu egg  
And a paddy-melon stew."

"'Tis well, 'tis well," said the bonny wee man;  
"I have eaten the wide world's meat,  
And the food that is given with right good-will  
Is the sweetest food to eat.

"But the night draws on to the Christmas Day  
And I must rise and go,  
For I have a mighty way to ride  
To the land of the Esquimaux.

"And it's there I must load my sledges up,  
With the reindeers four-in-hand,  
That go to the North, South, East, and West,  
To every Christian land."

"Tae the Esquimaux," said the dour guidwife,  
 "Ye suit my husband well!  
 For when he gets up on his journey horse  
 He's a bit of a liar himsel'."

Then out with a laugh went the bonny wee man  
 To his old horse grazing nigh,  
 And away like a meteor flash they went  
 Far off to the Northern sky.

When the children woke on the Christmas morn  
 They chattered with might and main—  
 For a sword and gun had little son Jack,  
 And a braw new doll had Jane,  
 And a packet o' screws had the twa emus;  
 But the dour guidwife gat nane.

"IN RE A GENTLEMAN, ONE"

*When an attorney is called before the Full Court to answer for any alleged misconduct it is not usual to publish his name until he is found guilty; until then the matter appears in the papers as "In re a Gentleman, One of the Attorneys of the Supreme Court," or, more shortly, "In re a Gent., One."*

We see it each day in the paper,  
 And know that there's mischief in store;  
 That some unprofessional caper  
 Has landed a shark on the shore.

We know there'll be plenty of trouble  
Before they get through with the fun,  
Because he's been coming the double  
On clients, has "Gentleman, One."

Alas for the gallant attorney,  
Intent upon cutting a dash!  
He starts on life's perilous journey  
With rather more cunning than cash.  
And fortune at first is inviting—  
He struts his brief hour in the sun—  
But, lo! on the wall is the writing  
Of Nemesis, "Gentleman One."

For soon he runs short of the dollars,  
He fears he must go to the wall;  
So Peter's trust-money he collars  
To pay off his creditor, Paul;  
Then robs right and left—for he goes it  
In earnest when once he's begun.  
*Descensus Averni*—he knows it;  
It's easy for "Gentleman, One."

The crash comes as sure as the seasons;  
He loses his coin in a mine,  
Or booming in land, or for reasons  
Connected with women and wine.  
Or maybe the cards or the horses  
A share of the damage have done—  
No matter; the end of the course is  
The same: "*Re a Gentleman, One.*"

He struggles awhile to keep going,  
 To stave off detection and shame;  
 But creditors, clamorous growing,  
 Ere long put an end to the game.  
 At length the poor soldier of Satan  
 His course to a finish has run—  
 And just think of Windeyer waiting  
 To deal with "A Gentleman, One!"

And some face it boldly, and brazen  
 The shame and the utter disgrace;  
 While others, more sensitive, hasten  
 Their names and their deeds to efface.  
 They snap the frail thread which the Furies  
 And Fates have so cruelly spun.  
 May the great Final Judge and His juries  
 Have mercy on "Gentleman, One!"

### AT THE MELTING OF THE SNOW

There's a sunny Southern land,  
 And it's there that I would be  
 Where the big hills stand,  
 In the South Countrie!  
 When the wattles bloom again,  
 Then it's time for us to go  
 To the old Monaro country  
 At the melting of the snow.

To the East or to the West,  
 Or wherever you may be,  
 You will find no place  
 Like the South Countrie.

For the skies are blue above,  
And the grass is green below,  
In the old Monaro country  
At the melting of the snow.

Now the team is in the plough,  
And the thrushes start to sing,  
And the pigeons on the bough  
Sit a-welcoming the Spring.  
So come, my comrades all,  
Let us saddle up and go  
To the old Monaro country  
At the melting of the snow.

#### A DREAM OF THE MELBOURNE CUP (1886)

Bring me a quart of colonial beer  
And some doughy damper to make good cheer,  
I must make a heavy dinner;  
Heavily dine and heavily sup,  
Of indigestible things fill up,  
Next month they run the Melbourne Cup,  
And I have to dream the winner.

Stoke it in, boys! the half-cooked ham,  
The rich ragout and the charming cham.,  
I've got to mix my liquor;  
Give me a gander's gaunt hind leg,  
Hard and tough as a wooden peg,  
And I'll keep it down with a hard-boiled egg,  
'Twill make me dream the quicker.

Now that I'm full of fearful feed,  
Oh, but I'll dream of a winner indeed  
    In my restless, troubled slumber;  
While the night-mares race through my heated brain  
And their devil-riders spur amain,  
The tip for the Cup will reward my pain,  
    And I'll spot the winning number.

Thousands and thousands and thousands more,  
Like sands on the white Pacific shore,  
    The crowding people cluster;  
For evermore is the story old,  
While races are bought and backers are sold,  
Drawn by the greed of the gain of gold,  
    In their thousands still they muster.

And the bookies' cries grow fierce and hot,  
"I'll lay the Cup! The double, if not!"  
    "Five monkeys, Little John, sir!"  
"Here's fives bar one, I lay, I lay!"  
And so they shout through the livelong day,  
And stick to the game that is sure to pay,  
    While fools put money on, sir!

And now in my dream I seem to go  
And bet with a "book" that I seem to know—  
    A Hebrew money-lender;  
A million to five is the price I get—  
Not bad! but before I book the bet  
The horse's name I clean forget,  
    Its number and even gender.

Now for the start, and here they come,  
And the hoof-strokes roar like a mighty drum  
    Beat by a hand unsteady;  
They come like a rushing, roaring flood,  
Hurrah for the speed of the Chester blood;  
For Acme is making the pace so good  
    There are some of 'em done already.

But round the back she begins to tire,  
And a mighty shout goes up "Crossfire!"  
    The magpie jacket's leading;  
And Crossfire challenges, fierce and bold,  
And the lead she'll have and the lead she'll hold,  
But at length gives way to the black and gold,  
    Which right to the front is speeding.

Carry them on and keep it up—  
A flying race is the Melbourne Cup,  
    You must race and stay to win it;  
And old Commotion, Victoria's pride,  
Now takes the lead with his raking stride,  
And a mighty roar goes far and wide—  
    "There's only Commotion in it!"

But one draws out from the beaten ruck  
And up on the rails by a piece of luck  
    He comes in a style that's clever;  
"It's Trident! Trident! Hurrah for Hales!"  
"Go at 'em now while their courage fails;"  
"Trident! Trident! for New South Wales!"  
    "The blue and white for ever!"

Under the whip! with the ears flat back,  
Under the whip! though the sinews crack,  
    No sign of the base white feather;

Stick to it now for your breeding's sake,  
 Stick to it now though your hearts should break,  
 While the yells and roars make the grand-stand shake,  
 They come down the straight together.

Trident slowly forges ahead,  
 The fierce whips cut and the spurs are red,  
 The pace is undiminished;  
 Now for the Panics that never fail!  
 But many a backer's face grows pale  
 As old Commotion swings his tail  
 And swerves—and the Cup is finished.

And now in my dream it all comes back:  
 I bet my coin on the Sydney crack,  
 A million I've won, no question!  
 "Give me my money, you hook-nosed hog!  
 Give me my money, bookmaking dog!"  
 But he disappeared in a kind of fog,  
 And I woke with "the indigestion."

### THE GUNDAROO BULLOCK

Oh, there's some that breeds the Devon that's as  
 solid as a stone,  
 And there's some that breeds the brindle which they  
 call the "Goulburn Roan;"  
 But amongst the breeds of cattle there are very,  
 very few  
 Like the hairy-whiskered bullock that they bred  
 at Gundaroo.

Far away by Grabben Gullen, where the Murrumbidgee flows,  
There's a block of broken country-side where no one ever goes;  
For the banks have gripped the squatters, and the free selectors too,  
And their stock are always stolen by the men of Gundaroo.

There came a low informer to the Grabben Gullen side,  
And he said to Smith the squatter, "You must saddle up and ride,  
For your bullock's in the harness-cask of Morgan Donahoo—  
He's the greatest cattle-stealer in the whole of Gundaroo."

"Oh, ho!" said Smith, the owner of the Grabben Gullen run,  
"I'll go and get the troopers by the sinking of the sun,  
And down into his homestead to-night we'll take a ride,  
With warrants to identify the carcass and the hide."

That night rode down the troopers, the squatter at their head,  
They rode into the homestead, and pulled Morgan out of bed.  
"Now, show to us the carcass of the bullock that you slew—  
The hairy-whiskered bullock that you killed in Gundaroo."

They peered into the harness-cask, and found it  
  wasn't full,  
But down among the brine they saw some flesh  
  and bits of wool.  
"What's this?" exclaimed the trooper; "an infant,  
  I declare;"  
Said Morgan, "'Tis the carcass of an old man native  
  bear.  
I heard that ye were coming, so an old man bear I  
  slew,  
Just to give you kindly welcome to my home in  
  Gundaroo.

"The times is something awful, as you can plainly  
  see,  
The banks have broke the squatters, and they've  
  broke the likes of me;  
We can't afford a bullock—such expense would  
  never do—  
So an old man bear for breakfast is a treat in  
  Gundaroo."  
And along by Grabben Gullen, where the rushing  
  river flows,  
In the block of broken country where there's no  
  one ever goes,  
On the Upper Murrumbidgee, they're a hospitable  
  crew—  
But you mustn't ask for "bullock" when you go to  
  Gundaroo.

## LAY OF THE MOTOR-CAR

We're away! and the wind whistles shrewd  
In our whiskers and teeth;  
And the granite-like grey of the road  
Seems to slide underneath.  
As an eagle might sweep through the sky,  
So we sweep through the land;  
And the pallid pedestrians fly  
When they hear us at hand.

We outpace, we outlast, we outstrip!  
Not the fast-fleeing hare,  
Nor the racehorses under the whip,  
Nor the birds of the air  
Can compete with our swiftness sublime,  
Our ease and our grace.  
We annihilate chickens and time  
And policemen and space.

Do you mind that fat grocer who crossed?  
How he dropped down to pray  
In the road when he saw he was lost;  
How he melted away  
Underneath, and there rang through the fog  
His earsplitting squeal  
As he went—Is that he or a dog,  
That stuff on the wheel?

## THE CORNER-MAN

I dreamt a dream at the midnight deep,  
When fancies come and go  
To vex a man in his soothing sleep  
With thoughts of awful woe—  
I dreamt that I was a corner-man  
Of a nigger minstrel show.

I cracked my jokes, and the building rang  
With laughter loud and long;  
I hushed the house as I softly sang  
An old plantation song—  
A tale of the wicked slavery days  
Of cruelty and wrong.

A small boy sat on the foremost seat—  
A mirthful youngster he;  
He beat the time with his restless feet  
To each new melody,  
And he picked me out as the brightest star  
Of the black fraternity.

"Oh father," he said, "what *would* we do  
If the corner-man should die?  
I never saw such a man—did you?  
He makes the people cry,  
And then, when he likes, he makes them laugh."  
The old man made reply—

"We each of us fill a very small space  
In the great creation's plan,  
If a man don't keep his lead in the race  
There's plenty more that can;  
The world can very soon fill the place  
Of even a corner-man."

I woke with a jump, rejoiced to find  
Myself at home in bed,  
And I framed a moral in my mind  
From the words the old man said.  
The world will jog along just the same  
When its corner-men are dead.

## WHEN DACEY RODE THE MULE

'Twas to a small, up-country town,  
When we were boys at school,  
There came a circus with a clown,  
Likewise a bucking mule.  
The clown announced a scheme they had  
Spectators for to bring—  
They'd give a crown to any lad  
Who'd ride him round the ring.

And, gentle reader, do not scoff  
Nor think a man a fool—  
To buck a porous-plaster off  
Was pastime to that mule.

The boys got on; he bucked like sin;  
 He threw them in the dirt.  
 What time the clown would raise a grin  
 By asking, "Are you hurt?"  
 But Johnny Dacey came one night,  
 The crack of all the school;  
 Said he, "I'll win the crown all right;  
 Bring in your bucking mule."

The elephant went off his trunk,  
 The monkey played the fool,  
 And all the band got blazing drunk  
 When Dacey rode the mule.

But soon there rose a galling shout  
 Of laughter, for the clown  
 From somewhere in his pants drew out  
 A little paper crown.  
 He placed the crown on Dacey's head  
 While Dacey looked a fool;  
 "Now, there's your crown, my lad," he said,  
 "For riding of the mule!"

The band struck up with "Killaloe,"  
 And "Rule Britannia, Rule,"  
 And "Young Man from the Country," too,  
 When Dacey rode the mule.

Then Dacey, in a furious rage,  
 For vengeance on the show  
 Ascended to the monkeys' cage  
 And let the monkeys go;

The blue-tailed ape and chimpanzee  
He turned abroad to roam;  
Good faith! It was a sight to see  
The people step for home.

For big baboons with canine snout  
Are spiteful, as a rule—  
The people didn't sit it out,  
When Dacey rode the mule.

And from the beasts he let escape,  
The bushman all declare,  
Were born some creatures partly ape  
And partly native-bear.  
They're rather few and far between,  
The race is nearly spent;  
But some of them may still be seen  
In Sydney Parliament.

And when those legislators fight,  
And drink, and act the fool,  
Just blame it on that torrid night  
When Dacey rode the mule.

### THE MYLORA ELOPEMENT

By the winding Wollondilly where the weeping  
willows weep,  
And the shepherd, with his billy, half awake and  
half asleep,

Folds his fleecy flocks that linger homewards in the  
setting sun  
Lived my hero, Jim the Ringer, "cocky" on Mylora  
Run.

Jimmy loved the super's daughter, Miss Amelia  
Jane McGrath.

Long and earnestly he sought her, but he feared her  
stern papa;  
And Amelia loved him truly—but the course of love,  
if true,  
Never yet ran smooth or duly, as I think it ought  
to do.

Pondering o'er his predilection, Jimmy watched  
McGrath, the boss,  
Riding past his lone selection, looking for a station  
'oss  
That was running in the ranges with a mob of out-  
laws wild.  
Mac the time of day exchanges—off goes Jim to see  
his child;

Says, "The old man's after Stager, which he'll find  
is no light job,  
And to-morrow I will wager he will try and yard  
the mob.  
Will you come with me to-morrow? I will let the  
parson know,  
And for ever, joy or sorrow, he will join us here  
below.

"I will bring my nags so speedy, Crazy Jane and  
Tambourine,  
One more kiss—don't think I'm greedy—good-bye,  
lass, before I'm seen—  
Just one more—God bless you, dearie! Don't forget  
to meet me here,  
Life without you is but weary; now, once more,  
good-bye, my dear."

• • • • •

The daylight shines on figures twain  
That ride across Mylora plain,  
Laughing and talking—Jim and Jane.  
"Steadily, darling. There's lots of time,  
Didn't we slip the old man prime!  
I knew he'd tackle that Bowneck mob,  
I reckon he'll find it too big a job.  
They've beaten us all. I had a try,  
But the warrigal devils seem to fly.  
That Sambo's a real good bit of stuff  
No doubt, but not quite good enough.  
He'll have to gallop the livelong day,  
To cut and come, to race and stay.  
I hope he yards 'em, 'twill do him good;  
To see us going I don't think would."  
A turn in the road and, fair and square,  
They meet the old man standing there.  
"What's up?" "Why, running away, of course,"  
Says Jim, emboldened. The old man turned,  
His eye with wild excitement burned.  
"I've raced all day through the scorching heat  
After old Bowneck: and now I'm beat.

But over that range I think you'll find  
The Bowneck mob all run stone-blind.  
Will you go, and leave the mob behind?  
Which will you do? Take the girl away,  
Or ride like a white man should to-day,  
And yard old Bowneck? Go or stay?"  
Says Jim, "I can't throw this away,  
We can bolt some other day, of course—  
Amelia Jane, get off that horse!  
Up you get, Old Man. Whoop, halloo!  
Here goes to put old Bowneck through!"  
Two distant specks on the mountain side,  
Two stockwhips echoing far and wide. . . .  
Amelia Jane sat down and cried.

"Sakes, Amelia, what's up now?  
Leading old Sambo, too, I vow,  
And him deadbeat. Where have you been?  
"Bolted with Jim! What *do* you mean?"  
"Met the old man with Sambo, licked  
From running old Bowneck." "Well, I'm  
kicked—  
Ran 'em till Sambo nearly dropped?  
What did Jim do when you were stopped?  
Did you bolt from father across the plain?  
Jim made you get off Crazy Jane!  
And father got on, and away again  
The two of 'em went to the ranges grim.  
Good boy, Jimmy! Oh, well done, Jim!  
They're sure to get them now, of course,  
That Tambourine is a spanking horse.

And Crazy Jane is good as gold.  
And Jim, they say, rides pretty bold—  
Not like your father, but very fair.  
Jim will have to follow the mare.”  
“It never was yet in father’s hide  
To best my Jim on the mountain side.  
Jim can rally, and Jim can ride.”  
But here again Amelia cried.

The sound of a whip comes faint and far,  
A rattle of hoofs, and here they are,  
In all their tameless pride.  
The fleet wild horses snort with fear,  
And wheel and break as the yard draws near.  
Now, Jim the Ringer, ride!  
Wheel ‘em! wheel ‘em! Whoa back there,  
    whoa!  
And the foam-flakes fly like the driven snow,  
As under the whip the horses go  
Adown the mountain side.  
And Jim, hands down, and teeth firm set,  
On a horse that never has failed him yet,  
Is after them down the range.  
Well ridden! well ridden! they wheel—whoa  
    back!  
And long and loud the stockwhips crack,  
Their flying course they change;  
“Steadily does it—let Sambo go!  
Open those sliprails down below.  
Smart! or you’ll be too late.

They'll follow old Sambo up—look out!  
 Wheel that black horse—give Sam a clout.  
 They're in! Make fast the gate."

The mob is safely in the yard!  
 The old man mounts delighted guard.  
 No thought has he but for his prize.

Jim catches poor Amelia's eyes.  
 "Will you come after all? The job is done,  
 And Crazy Jane is fit to run  
 For a prince's life—now don't say no;  
 Slip on while the old man's down below  
 At the inner yard, and away we'll go.  
 Will you come, my girl?" "I will, you bet;  
 We'll manage this here elopement yet."

By the winding Wollondilly stands the hut of Ringer  
 Jim.  
 And his loving little Meely makes a perfect god of  
 him.  
 He has stalwart sons and daughters, and, I think,  
 before he's done,  
 There'll be numerous "Six-fortys" taken on Mylora  
 run.

#### THE PANNIKIN POET

There's nothing here sublime,  
 But just a roving rhyme,  
 Run off to pass the time,  
 With nought titanic in.

The theme that it supports,  
And, though it treats of quarts,  
It's bare of golden thoughts—  
It's just a pannikin.

I think it's rather hard  
That each Australian bard—  
Each wan, poetic card—  
With thoughts galvanic in  
His fiery soul alight,  
In wild aerial flight,  
Will sit him down and write  
About a pannikin.

He makes some new-chum fare  
From out his English lair  
To hunt the native bear,  
That curious mannikin;  
And then when times get bad  
That wandering English lad  
Writes out a message sad  
Upon his pannikin:

“O mother, think of me  
Beneath the wattle tree”  
(For you may bet that he  
Will drag the wattle in)  
“O mother, here I think  
That I shall have to sink,  
There ain’t a single drink  
The water-bottle in.”

The dingo homeward hies,  
 The sooty crows uprise  
 And caw their fierce surprise  
     A tone Satanic in;  
 And bearded bushmen tread  
 Around the sleeper's head—  
 "See here—the bloke is dead!  
     Now where's his pannikin?"

They read his words and weep,  
 And lay him down to sleep  
 Where wattle-branches sweep,  
     A style mechanic in;  
 And, reader, that's the way  
 The poets of to-day  
 Spin out their little lay  
     About a pannikin.

### THE PROTEST

I say 'e *isn't* Remorse!  
 'Ow do I know?  
 Saw 'im on Riccarton course  
     Two year ago!  
 Think I'd forget any 'orse?  
     *Course* 'e's The Crow!

Bumper Maginnis and I  
     After a "go,"  
 Walkin' our 'orses to dry,  
     I says "Hello!"

What's that old black goin' by?"  
Bumper says "Oh!  
That's an old cuddy of Flanagan's—  
Runs as The Crow!"

Now they make out 'e's Remorse.

Well, but I *know*.  
Soon as I came on the course  
I says "'Ello!  
'Ere's the old Crow."  
Once a man's seen any 'orse,  
Course 'e must know.  
Sure as there's wood in this table,  
I say 'e's The Crow.

*(Cross-examined by the Committee.)*

'Ow do I know the moke  
After one sight?  
S'posin' you met a bloke  
Down town at night,  
Wouldn't you know 'im again when you met 'im?  
That's '*im* all right!

What was the brand on 'is 'ide?  
*I* couldn't say,  
Brands can be transmogrified.  
That ain't the way—  
It's the *look* of a 'orse and the way that 'e moves  
That I'd know any day.

What was the boy on 'is back?  
Why, 'e went past  
All of a minute, and off down the track.  
—"The 'orse went as fast?"

True, so 'e did! But, my eyes, what a treat!  
 'Ow can I notice the 'ands and the seat  
 Of each bumble-faced kid of a boy that I meet?  
 Lor'! What a question to ast!

*(Protest Dismissed.)*

### AN EVENING IN DANDALOO

It was while we held our races—  
 Hurdles, sprints and steeplechases—  
 Up in Dandaloo,  
 That a crowd of Sydney stealers,  
 Jockeys, pugilists and spelers  
 Brought some horses, real heelers,  
 Came and put us through.

Beat our nags and won our money,  
 Made the game by no means funny,  
 Made us rather blue;  
 When the racing was concluded,  
 Of our hard-earned coin denuded  
 Dandaloonies sat and brooded  
 There in Dandaloo.

Night came down on Johnson's shanty  
 Where the grog was no way scanty,  
 And a tumult grew  
 Till some wild, excited person  
 Galloped down the township cursing,  
 "Sydney push have mobbed Macpherson,  
 Roll up, Dandaloo!"

Great St. Denis! what commotion!  
Like the rush of stormy ocean  
    Fiery horsemen flew.  
Dust and smoke and din and rattle,  
Down the street they spurred their cattle  
To the war-cry of the battle,  
    “Wade in, Dandaloo!”

So the boys might have their fight out,  
Johnson blew the bar-room light out,  
    Then, in haste, withdrew.  
And in darkness and in doubting  
Raged the conflict and the shouting,  
“Give the Sydney push a clouting,  
    Go it, Dandaloo!”

Jack Macpherson seized a bucket,  
Every head he saw he struck it—  
    Struck in earnest, too;  
And a man from Lower Wattle,  
Whom a shearer tried to throttle,  
Hit out freely with a bottle  
    There in Dandaloo.

Skin and hair were flying thickly,  
When a light was fetched, and quickly  
    Brought a fact to view—  
On the scene of the diversion  
Every single, solid person  
Come along to help Macpherson—  
    All were Dandaloo!

When the list of slain was tabled—  
Some were drunk and some disabled—  
    Still we found it true.

In the darkness and the smother  
We'd been belting one another;  
Jack Macpherson bashed his brother  
There in Dandaloo.

So we drank, and all departed—  
How the “mobbing” yarn was started  
No one ever knew—  
And the stockmen tell the story  
Of that conflict fierce and gory,  
How we fought for love and glory  
Up in Dandaloo.

It's a proverb now, or near it—  
At the races you can hear it,  
At the dog-fights, too!  
Every shrieking, dancing drover  
As the canines topple over  
Yells applause to Grip or Rover,  
“Give him ‘Dandaloo’!”

And the teamster slowly toiling  
Through the deep black country, soiling  
Wheels and axles, too,  
Lays the whip on Spot and Bunker,  
Rouses Tarboy with a flanker—  
“Redman! Ginger! Heave there! Yank her!  
Wade in, Dandaloo!”

## A BALLAD OF DUCKS

The railway rattled and roared and swung  
With jolting carriage and bumping trucks.  
The sun, like a billiard red ball, hung  
In the Western sky: and the tireless tongue  
Of the wild-eyed man in the corner told  
This terrible tale of the days of old,  
And the party that ought to have kept the ducks.

"Well, it ain't all joy bein' on the land  
With an overdraft that'd knock you flat;  
And the rabbits have pretty well took command;  
But the hardest thing for a man to stand  
Is the feller who says 'Well, I told you so!  
You should ha' done this way, don't you know!'  
I could lay a bait for a man like that.

"The grasshoppers struck us in ninety-one  
And what they leave—well, it ain't *de luxe*.  
But a growlin' fault-findin' son of a gun  
Who'd lent some money to stock our run—  
I said they'd eaten what grass we had—  
Says he, 'Your management's very bad;  
You had a right to have kept some ducks!'

"To have kept some ducks!" And the place was  
white!  
Wherever you went you had to tread  
On grasshoppers guzzlin' day and night;  
And when with a swoosh they rose in flight,

W

If you didn't look out for yourself they'd fly  
 Like bullets into your open eye  
 And knock it out of the back of your head.

"There isn't a turkey or goose or swan,  
 Or a duck that quacks, or a hen that clucks,  
 Can make a difference on a run  
 When a grasshopper plague has once begun;  
 'If you'd finance us,' I says, 'I'd buy  
 Ten thousand emus and have a try;  
 The job,' I says, 'is too big for ducks!'

"'You must fetch a duck when you come to  
 stay;  
 A great big duck—a Muscovy toff—  
 Ready and fit,' I says, 'for the fray;  
 And if the grasshoppers come our way  
 You turn your duck into the lucerne patch.  
 And I'd be ready to make a match  
 That the grasshoppers eats his feathers off!'

"He came to visit us by and by,  
 And it just so happened one day in spring  
 A kind of a cloud came over the sky—  
 A wall of grasshoppers nine miles high,  
 And nine miles thick, and nine hundred wide,  
 Flyin' in regiments, side by side,  
 And eatin' up every living thing.

"All day long, like a shower of rain,  
 You'd hear 'em smackin' against the wall,  
 Tap, tap, tap, on the window pane,  
 And they'd rise and jump at the house again

Till their crippled carcasses piled outside.  
But what did it matter if thousands died—  
A million wouldn't be missed at all.

"We were drinkin' grasshoppers—so to speak—  
Till we skimmed their carcasses off the spring;  
And they fell so thick in the station creek  
They choked the waterholes all the week.  
There was scarcely room for a trout to rise,  
And they'd only take artificial flies—  
They got so sick of the real thing.

"An Arctic snowstorm was beat to rags  
When the hoppers rose for their morning flight  
With a flapping noise like a million flags:  
And the kitchen chimney was stuffed with bags  
For they'd fall right into the fire, and fry  
Till the cook sat down and began to cry—  
And never a duck or fowl in sight!

"We strolled across to the railroad track—  
Under a cover beneath some trucks,  
I sees a feather and hears a quack;  
I stoops and I pulls the tarpaulin back—  
Every duck in the place was there,  
No good to them was the open air.  
'Mister,' I says, 'There's your blanky ducks!'"

## TOMMY CORRIGAN

*(Killed, Steeplechasing at Flemington.)*

You talk of riders on the flat, of nerve and pluck  
and pace—  
Not one in fifty has the nerve to ride a steeple-  
chase.  
It's right enough, while horses pull and take their  
fences strong,  
To rush a flier to the front and bring the field along;  
But what about the last half-mile, with horses blown  
and beat—  
When every jump means all you know to keep him  
on his feet.

When any slip means sudden death—with wife and  
child to keep—  
It needs some nerve to draw the whip and flog him  
at the leap—  
But Corrigan would ride them out, by danger un-  
dismayed,  
He never flinched at fence or wall, he never was  
afraid;  
With easy seat and nerve of steel, light hand and  
smiling face,  
He held the rushing horses back, and made the  
sluggards race.

He gave the shirkers extra heart, he steadied down  
the rash,  
He rode great clumsy boring brutes, and chanced a  
fatal smash;

He got the rushing Wymlet home that never  
jumped at all—

But clambered over every fence and clouted every  
wall.

You should have heard the cheers, my boys, that  
shook the members' stand

Whenever Tommy Corrigan weighed out to ride  
Lone Hand.

They were, indeed, a glorious pair—the great up-  
standing horse,

The gamest jockey on his back that ever faced a  
course.

Though weight was big and pace was hot and  
fences stiff and tall,

"You follow Tommy Corrigan" was passed to one  
and all.

And every man on Ballarat raised all he could  
command

To put on Tommy Corrigan when riding old Lone  
Hand.

But now we'll keep his memory green while horse-  
men come and go;

We may not see his like again where silks and  
satins glow.

We'll drink to him in silence, boys—he's followed  
down the track

Where many a good man went before, but never  
one came back.

And, let us hope, in that far land where the shades of  
brave men reign,

The gallant Tommy Corrigan will ride Lone Hand  
again.

## THE MAORI'S WOOL

*Now, this is just a simple tale to tell the reader how  
They civilized the Maori tribe at Rooti-iti-au.*

The Maoris are a mighty race—the finest ever known;  
Before the missionaries came they worshipped wood and stone;  
They went to war and fought like fiends, and when the war was done  
They pacified their conquered foes by eating every one.  
But now-a-days about the pahs in idleness they lurk,  
Prepared to smoke or drink or talk—or anything but work.  
The richest tribe in all the North in sheep and horse and cow.  
Were those who led their simple lives at Rooti-iti-au.

'Twas down to town at Wellington a noble Maori came,  
A Rangatira of the best, Rerenga was his name—  
(The word Rerenga means a "snag"—but until he was gone  
This didn't strike the folk he met—it struck them later on).

He stalked into the Bank they call the "Great Financial Hell,"  
And told the Chief Financial Fiend the tribe had wool to sell.  
The Bold Bank Manager looked grave—the price of wool was high.  
He said, "We'll lend you what you need—we're not disposed to buy.

You ship the wool to England, Chief!—You'll find it's good advice,  
And meanwhile you can draw from us the local market price."  
The Chief he thanked him courteously and said he wished to state  
In all the Rooti-iti tribe his mana would be great,  
But still the tribe were simple folk, and did not understand  
This strange finance that gave them cash without the wool in hand.  
So off he started home again, with trouble on his brow,  
To lay the case before the tribe at Rooti-iti-au.

They held a great korero in the Rooti-iti clan,  
With speeches lasting half a day from every leading man.  
They called themselves poetic names—"lost children in a wood;"  
They said the Great Bank Manager was Kapai—extra good!

And so they sent Rerenga down, full-powered and well-equipped,  
To draw as much as he could get, and let the wool be shipped;  
And wedged into a "Cargo Tank," full up from stern to bow,  
A mighty clip of wool went Home from Rooti-iti-  
au.

It was the Bold Bank Manager who drew a heavy cheque;  
Rerenga cashed it thoughtfully, then clasped him round the neck;  
A hug from him was not at all a thing you'd call a lark—  
You see he lived on mutton-birds and dried remains of shark—  
But still it showed his gratitude; and, as he pouched the pelf,  
"I'll haka for you, sir," he said, "in honour of yourself!"  
The haka is a striking dance—the sort they don't allow  
In any place more civilized than Rooti-iti-  
au.

He "haka'd" most effectively—then, with an airy grace,  
Rubbed noses with the Manager, and vanished into space.  
But when the wool return came back, ah me, what sighs and groans!  
For every bale of Maori wool was loaded up with stones!

Yes—thumping great New Zealand rocks among  
the wool they found;  
On every rock the Bank had lent just eighteen-  
pence a pound.  
And now the Bold Bank Manager, with trouble on  
his brow,  
Is searching vainly for the chief from Rooti-iti-*au*.

## SUNRISE ON THE COAST

Grey dawn on the sand-hills—the night wind has  
drifted  
All night from the rollers a scent of the sea;  
With the dawn the grey fog his battalions has lifted,  
At the call of the morning they scatter and flee.

Like mariners calling the roll of their number  
The sea-fowl put out to the infinite deep.  
And far overhead—sinking softly to slumber—  
Worn out by their watching the stars fall asleep.

To eastward, where rests the broad dome of the  
skies on  
The sea-line, stirs softly the curtain of night;  
And far from behind the enshrouded horizon  
Comes the voice of a God saying “Let there be  
light.”

And lo, there is light! Evanescing and tender,  
It glows ruby-red where 'twas now ashen-grey;  
And purple and scarlet and gold in its splendour—  
Behold, 'tis that marvel, the birth of a day!

### SONG OF THE PEN

Not for the love of women toil we, we of the craft,  
Not for the people's praise;  
Only because our goddess made us her own and  
laughed,  
Claiming us all our days,

Claiming our best endeavour—body and heart and  
brain  
Given with no reserve—  
Niggard is she towards us, granting us little gain:  
Still, we are proud to serve.

Not unto us is given choice of the tasks we try,  
Gathering grain or chaff;  
One of her favoured servants toils at an epic high,  
One, that a child may laugh.

Yet if we serve her truly in our appointed place,  
Freely she doth accord  
Unto her faithful servants always this saving grace,  
Work is its own reward!

***INDEX TO FIRST LINES***



## INDEX TO FIRST LINES

Across the Queensland border line .. .. ..	276
All of us play our very best game .. .. ..	217
As I lie at rest on a patch of clover .. .. ..	78
As I pondered very weary o'er a volume long and dreary .. .. .. ..	118
As the nations sat together, grimly waiting ..	199
"Ay," said the boozer, "I tell you it's true, sir"	113
Beyond the land where Leichhardt went .. ..	266
Born of a thoroughbred English race .. .. ..	122
Bring me a quart of colonial beer .. .. ..	305
By the far Samoan shore .. .. .. ..	203
By the winding Wollondilly where the weeping willows weep .. .. .. .. ..	315
Come all you little rouseabouts and climb upon my knee .. .. .. .. ..	259
Did you ever hear tell of Chili? I was readin' the other day .. .. .. .. ..	83
Do they know? At the turn to the straight ..	208
Down along the Snakebite River, where the over- landers camp .. .. .. .. ..	97
Far to the Northward there lies a land .. .. ..	138
Grey dawn on the sand-hills—the night wind has drifted .. .. .. .. .. ..	335
Halt! Who goes there? The sentry's call .. ..	251
He came from "further out" .. .. .. ..	80

"He ought to be home," said the old man, "without there's something amiss" .. .. .. ..	67
Here in my mountain home .. .. .. ..	295
Him going to ride for us! <i>Him</i> —with the pants and eyeglass and all .. .. .. ..	53
I ain't the kind of bloke as takes to any steady job	279
I am the maid of the lustrous eyes .. ..	102
I bought a run a while ago .. .. .. ..	41
I dreamt a dream at the midnight deep .. ..	312
I had ridden over hurdles up the country once or twice .. .. .. ..	48
I had written him a letter which I had, for want of better .. .. .. ..	15
I have gathered these stories afar .. .. .. ..	2
I left the course, and by my side .. .. ..	198
I say he <i>isn't</i> Remorse .. .. .. ..	322
I served my time, in the days gone by .. ..	92
I thought, in the days of the droving .. ..	74
I'd reckon his weight at eight-stun-eight .. ..	263
"I'll introoce a friend," he said .. .. ..	209
I'm travelling down the Castlereagh, and I'm a station-hand .. .. .. ..	86
It chanced out back at the Christmas time ..	299
It lies beyond the Western Pines .. .. ..	257
It was over at Coolgardie that a mining speculator	290
It was shearing time at the Myall Lake .. ..	62
It was somewhere up the country, in a land of rock and scrub .. .. .. ..	31
It was the man from Ironbark who struck the Sydney town .. .. .. ..	45
It was while we held our races .. .. ..	324
It's grand to be a squatter .. .. .. ..	222
Kanzo Makame, the diver, sturdy and small Japanee .. .. .. ..	150

## INDEX TO FIRST LINES

341

Let us cease our idle chatter .. .. ..	73
Little bush maiden, wondering-eyed .. ..	70
MacFierce'un came to Whiskeyhurst .. ..	115
Men fight all shapes and sizes as the racing horses run .. .. .. .. ..	245
My son, if you go to the races to battle with Ikey and Mo .. .. .. ..	264
Not for the love of women toil we, we of the craft .. .. .. .. ..	336
Now look, you see, it's this way like .. ..	285
Now the stock have started dying, for the Lord has sent a drought .. .. .. ..	184
Now, this is just a simple tale to tell the reader how .. .. .. .. ..	332
Now this is the law of the Overland that all in the West obey .. .. .. ..	37
Now this was what Macpherson told .. ..	131
Oh! Mr. Gilhooley he turned up his toes .. ..	284
Oh, Mulligan's Bar was the deuce of a place ..	292
Oh! the circus swooped down .. .. ..	220
Oh, the new-chum went to the back block run ..	108
Oh, the weary, weary journey on the trek, day after day .. .. .. .. ..	241
Oh! there once was a swagman camped in the Billabong .. .. .. .. ..	271
Oh, there's some that breeds the Devon that's as solid as a stone .. .. .. .. ..	308
On the outer Barcoo where the churches are few ..	111
On Western plains, where shade is not .. ..	28
"Only a pound," said the auctioneer .. ..	64
Out in the grey cheerless chill of the morning light .. .. .. .. ..	71
Out in the wastes of the West countrie .. ..	182

Roses ruddy and roses white .. .. .. ..	77
Scene: On Monaro .. .. .. ..	61
So you're back from up the country, Mister Lawson, where you went .. .. .. ..	105
The bell is set a-ringing, and the engine gives a toot .. .. .. ..	94
The Boers were down on Kimberley with siege and Maxim gun .. .. .. ..	135
The boys had come back from the races .. ..	23
The daylight is dying .. .. .. ..	126
The drought is down on field and flock .. ..	140
The fields of youth are filled with flowers .. ..	225
The London lights are far abeam .. .. ..	201
The long day passes with its load of sorrow ..	235
The mountain road goes up and down .. ..	190
The news came down on the Castlereagh, and went to the world at large .. .. .. ..	192
"The opening of the railway line!—the Governor and all .. .. .. ..	144
The railway rattled and roared and swung .. ..	327
The roving breezes come and go .. .. ..	57
The roving breezes come and go, the reed-beds sweep and sway .. .. .. ..	34
The shearers sat in the firelight, hearty and hale and strong .. .. .. ..	109
The sheep were shorn and the wool went down ..	225
The stranger came from Narromine and made his little joke .. .. .. ..	154
The sun strikes down with a blinding glare ..	165
The widow sought the lawyer's room with children three in tow .. .. .. ..	43
There came a stranger to Walgett town .. ..	42
There came a whisper down the Bland between the dawn and dark .. .. .. ..	95

## INDEX TO FIRST LINES

343

There is waving of grass in the breeze .. ..	289
There was movement at the station, for the word had passed around .. .. .. ..	3
There's a soldier that's been doing of his share	250
There's a sunny Southern land .. .. ..	304
There's never a stone at the sleeper's head ..	89
There's nothing here sublime .. .. ..	320
There's some that ride the Robbo style, and bump at every stride .. .. .. ..	270
They came of bold and roving stock that would not fixed abide .. .. .. ..	298
They held a polo meeting at a little country town	223
This is the story the stockman told .. .. ..	280
This is the place where they all were bred ..	120
This was the way of it, don't you know .. ..	18
'Tis strange that in a land so strong .. ..	176
'Twas Driver Smith of Battery A was anxious to see a fight .. .. .. ..	236
'Twas in the days of front attack .. .. ..	248
'Twas Mulga Bill, from Eaglehawk, that caught the cycling craze .. .. .. ..	147
'Twas Saltbush Bill, with his travelling sheep, was making his way to town .. .. ..	158
'Twas the horse thief, Andy Regan, that was hunted like a dog .. .. .. ..	167
'Twas to a small, up-country town .. .. ..	313
Wargeilah town is very small .. .. ..	212
We buried old Bob where the bloodwoods wave	124
We have sung the song of the droving days ..	255
We see it each day in the paper .. .. ..	302
Well, I've waited mighty patient while they all came rolling in .. .. .. ..	272
We're away! and the wind whistles shrewd ..	311

What! You don't like him; well, maybe—we all have our fancies, of course .. . . .	230
When you're lying in your hammock, sleeping soft and sleeping sound .. . . .	240
Where 'ave you been this week or more .. . .	247
Will you love me, sweet when my hair is grey	278
With eyes that searched in the dark .. . .	173
With never a sound of trumpet .. . .	243
"You come and see me, boys," he said .. . .	162
"You led the trump," the old man said .. . .	219
You never heard tell of the story? .. . . .	8
You see, the thing was this way—there was me	187
You talk of riders on the flat, of nerve and pluck and pace .. . . . .	330

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